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THE TIMES

35P

No. 66,093 THURSDAY JANUARY 8 1998 http://www.the-times.co.uk

TODAY

HOW A HAT IMPROVES YOUR GOLF
Stroke of inspiration on the fairway
PAGE 3

SALES FEVER
Dr Stuttaford on impulse spending syndrome
PAGE 16



SATURDAY
THE TIMES FOR ONLY 20P

DAVID McNEW/REUTERS



Paula Jones, left, confers with her legal adviser Susan Carpenter McMillan. Mrs Jones is entitled to be present when the President is questioned

Four couples 'ready for US project'

Doctors call for human cloning ban

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN AND IAN MURRAY



Richard Seed plans clinic in Chicago

DOCTORS and scientists called last night for a worldwide ban on cloning human beings after an American physicist said that he intended to start work on producing a cloned baby within three months.

Richard Seed, who aims to set up a clinic in Chicago, said that four couples in the area wanted to participate in the project with an infertile married upper middle-class couple "number one on the list". He added that the clinic would probably clone both the husband and wife.

Pioneer couples would probably have to pay $1 million for their children, but he expected the cost eventually to fall into line with *in vitro* fertilisation treatment, and he hoped to open ten or twenty clinics in America and trip to six overseas.

His first putative clinic had already recruited two obstetrician-gyniaecologists, an embryologist, two lawyers, a psychologist and two "nurse wonderwomen sensitive to the needs of infertile couples".

Since he has no medical qualifications, Dr Seed would not himself carry out the cloning, but he intends to devise the technique by modifying the methods used in Scotland to create Dolly the sheep. "There is no difference with all large mammals," he said. "The embryology is very similar."

His proposals were greeted with horror around the world, however. President Clinton called for legislation to ban Dr Seed's work, the World Medical Association urged doctors to boycott such research, and the UK Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority called for the rest of the world to follow Britain's example and ban human cloning. The Roslin Institute in Edinburgh, which cloned Dolly, said that the idea was both unethical and extremely unwise with a grave danger of abortions and abnormalities.

President Clinton said that he would be asking Congress to impose a five-year ban on research into producing human clones — at present it is outlawed only in California — although he did not want to prohibit the cloning of human DNA or animals because that could lead to medical and agricultural advances. Mr Clinton has already forbidden the use of federal money for human cloning experiments and called on privately-funded enterprises to shun them. Scientists and doctors in America have accepted a voluntary moratorium on such research, and a bioethics commission last year recommended an outright ban, but legislation has yet to follow, and Dr Seed was undeterred by Mr Clinton's move. "I don't happen to agree with the President of the United States," he said. "He does not have the power to stop me at the moment. I don't think Congress will give him that power." If he were barred from pursuing his plans in America, he said, he would go to Mexico.

Dr Seed's work would be illegal in Britain, which passed the first law against human cloning in 1990, and yesterday the UK Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority said that the rest of the world should follow suit. A spokesman said: "Already there are several moves towards bringing in international bans. There needs to much more worldwide debate about the ethics of cloning. An international ban on cloning would be a very good idea."

The World Medical Association (WMA), meeting in Hamburg, also called unanimously for doctors to stop work in this field until the scientific, ethical and legal issues had been fully considered. The American Medical Association was one of the strongest supporters of the resolution.

James Appleyard, the British chairman of the WMA's ethics committee, said that it was rare to obtain such universal approval, given the wide range of cultures and religions among the 70 countries and five million doctors represented. But he added: "It is mind-blowing what can be done once you start down that track without proper controls. I am gravely concerned that this guy is going to set up in business without understanding the limitations and extent of his work. There are very genuine concerns about the

Continued on page 2, col 1

Clinton to face Paula Jones in White House

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton, in what promises to be a highly embarrassing confrontation, is facing a meeting at the White House with Paula Jones, the former Arkansas employee who is suing him for sexual harassment.

A subpoena calls for the President to give his first sworn testimony on January 17 in the lawsuit brought by Mrs Jones and the meeting is scheduled to be held in the Map Room at the White House.

Not only will Mr Clinton become the first President ever to testify as a defendant in a civil or criminal proceeding, he will also be compelled to give sworn and intimate evidence in the presence of a woman who charges that he sexually molested her and violated her civil rights.

Mrs Jones claims that, as Governor of Arkansas in 1991, Mr Clinton exposed himself to her in a Little Rock hotel room and demanded that she perform a sexual act.

She has claimed that Mr Clinton's genitals bear certain "distinguishing characteristics", an allegation rejected last year on national television by the President's lawyer, Robert Bennett, but one that yesterday provoked further speculation about their confrontation in the White House.

Although neither the White House nor Mrs Jones's team of Dallas lawyers would make any formal comment last night, citing a federal gagging order imposed by Judge Susan Webber Wright, privately officials said the date of the meeting may be changed because it had been leaked to *The Washington Times*.

Mrs Jones, now a housewife in Long Beach, California, is entitled to be present while her attorneys question the President and, according to the newspaper, she has made the decision to attend.

Although the hearing will be held behind closed doors, it will provide an unsavoury aside to the regular business of the President. As soon as Mrs Jones arrives at the White House she is certain to be greeted by banks of cameras, on hand at all times of the day and night in the media pool outside the mansion.

Once inside, the President's deposition will be videotaped and transcribed by a court stenographer. There was no indication last night that Judge Susan Webber, the Little Rock justice who will try the case in May, would attend or supervise the testimony electronically.

When Mr Clinton appeared as a witness in the Whitewater trial of Jim and Susan McDougal, his former business partners, and Jim Guy Tucker, his successor as Governor of Arkansas, the judge watched via a satellite link which was scrambled to avoid any eavesdropping.

Even if the videotape is eventually played in the Little Rock federal court, it is almost certain to remain sheltered from public broadcast. Only a transcript of Mr Clinton's testimony was made public in the Whitewater trial.

The President has consistently denied any charge and insisted that he has no recollection of the meeting at the Excelsior Hotel or that he later penalised Mrs Jones for declining his advances.

Maze visit

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, will appeal to loyalist terrorists in the Maze prison to support the peace talks when she visits the jail tomorrow Page 2

Taxing problem

Almost 3½ million people have yet to return their self-assessment tax forms — with the deadline just over three weeks away Page 23

TV & RADIO	42-43
WEATHER	22
CROSSWORDS	22-44
LETTERS	19
OBITUARIES	21
W. REES-MOGG	18
ARTS	31-33
CHESS & BRIDGE	38
COURT & SOCIAL	20
SPORT	38-42, 44
BODY & MIND	16
BOOKS	34-35

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More privatised trains run late as fares increase

BY FRASER NELSON AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

AN INCREASING number of rail services are running late, it was disclosed yesterday. Official figures comparing the performance of the private rail services has shown a sharp drop in punctuality in spite of huge fare increases on some lines.

Thousands of commuters travelling into London on one line found more than one in three peak-time trains running late, the worst set of figures declared since British Rail was sold off.

Many other train companies have seen a slump in performance since making initial improvements in 1995 but the fall was dismissed as "growing pains" by one senior industry figure yesterday.

Several of the worst performing companies, including Southeast groups Connex South Eastern, Connex South Central and Great Eastern, increased fares above the inflation rate this week, prompting passenger complaints that their services did not merit such high rises. Figures to be published by John O'Brien, the rail franchising director, indicate that 18 of the 25 train operators have reported substantial increases in delays in the final quarter of last year.



"You've missed the 7.22 but don't worry, the 6.45 hasn't come in yet"

The figures, covering three months to December, will show that only five companies have managed to improve punctuality year-on-year and suggest average delays of 18 per cent, compared with the same period in 1996.

One third of the operators admit that they are running at least one in six trains late, defined as five minutes overdue on commuter and short distance routes and ten minutes on longer journeys. *The Times* has collated the performance figures for every rail network in the country — data

Continued on page 2, col 6

Pain-free fillings with drill-free gel

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE days of the dentist's drill could be numbered with the invention of a remarkable red gel that dissolves decaying parts of teeth. Researchers claim the gel is painless and preserves healthy tissue.

Around 1,000 dentists in Sweden are expected to use the gel over the coming months when they take part in a pilot scheme. The company behind the invention, Medi Team of Gothenburg, Sweden, plans to market it in Britain soon.

The method, reported in *New Scientist*, involves two vials. One contains three amino acids and the other a weak solution of sodium hypochlorite. These are mixed together and a few drops applied to the decayed tooth.

It is claimed the mixture dissolves the decayed dentine and tissue in 30 seconds, allowing the dentists to scrape the cavity and clean it before filling it. The hypochlorite is the chemical that dissolves decayed material while the amino acids help prevent damage to healthy tissue.

Irene Herrmann, manager of clinical research at Medi Team, said: "For many cavities, such as those underneath fillings, some drilling will still be needed. But even in those cases, the drill will usually only be used to remove tissue in the least sensitive areas, far from the nerve."

Dr John Renshaw, a member of the British Dental Association, whose surgery is in Scarborough, North Yorkshire, said yesterday that the drill was among reasons people avoided dental treatment. If the gel could remove that fear, "then that would be a significant advance", he said.

Taxi driver robbed by armed mugger, aged 10

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

POLICE are hunting a ten-year-old who pistol-whipped and robbed a taxi driver.

The boy, who was with two older youths, threatened the driver with the gun when he was asked for a £3 fare. He then hit the man with the gun, stole £30 takings and left him by the roadside before the gang escaped in the car.

It is the second time in a fortnight that a gang of youths has attacked a taxi driver in the Bristol area. Police said yesterday that they could not rule out a link with a similar attack on Christmas Eve, involving three youths and a knife.

Ali Reza, 34, the taxi driver, picked up three black youths aged around 10, 14 and 18, in Easton, Bristol, on Tuesday night. After taking them to their destination two miles away in the suburb of Redfield, he was threatened and battered by the 10-year-old.

The youth screamed at Mr Reza to hand over his takings as he repeatedly hit him around the head. The driver, who was soaked in blood, handed over £30 and managed to scramble out of the car. The gang then drove off in Mr Reza's car and he ran to a nearby house for help. He was taken to the Bristol Royal Infirmary for treatment to head injuries and later released. His white Toyota Carina was found early yesterday morning on an estate a mile from the scene of the attack.

Mr Reza said yesterday: "I thought they were going to kill me. The one who was about ten was screaming at me to hand over my money as he hit me.

"I am shocked that someone so young would do this, and for someone that age to be carrying a gun was terrifying."

On Christmas Eve a youth aged about 12 and two friends tried to rob a taxi driver in Kingswood, Bristol, at knifepoint.

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Ban on beef makes no sense, says US


Glickman: gave warning of a new trade war

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S decision to ban beef on the bone because of a possible risk of contamination with "mad cow" disease was ridiculed by a senior member of the United States Administration yesterday.

Dan Glickman, the US Agriculture Secretary, cited the ban as an example of overreaction to health scares that had brought the European Union and the United States to the verge of a trade war.

Speaking at the annual Oxford Farming Conference, Mr Glickman said: "I was heartened recently to see British consumers recognise that things are getting out of hand. When the Government banned bone-in beef there was a rush on butcher's shops to stock up before the ban went into effect. Consumers were on the news saying, 'They've gone too far'.

"These kinds of actions leave a strong perception in the United States that here in the EU legitimate public food safety concerns are being manipulated for political purposes. As traditional trade barriers begin to disappear, we owe it to consumers to see that food safety does not become a new trade battleground."

Mr Glickman's remarks drew loud cheers from several hundred farmers and representatives of the food retail industry, who on Tuesday had given a distinctly frosty reception to Dr Cunningham. Mr Glickman's comments on beef formed part of a stern warning that the EU would be heading for a trade war with the US if it carried out a threat to ban the import of billions of dollars worth of American cosmetics and pharmaceuticals because they contain tallow, a biproduct of the cattle industry.

The EU argues that the ban — originally due to have come into force on January 1 but postponed for three months — is justified because the United States cannot prove that it is free of BSE, which has killed 170,000 British cattle. Some 22 people have died from a new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human equivalent of BSE, which is thought to have been acquired by eating contaminated meat. Mr Glickman said: "The threatened ban is based on the assumption that the United States may have BSE which may get into tallow which may harm a person. Each of these assumptions is vigorously disputed by the scientific facts, including those of the European Commission's own scientists."

Terry Medley, Director of the US Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, who accompanied Mr Glickman to Oxford, said the EU must grant the US BSE-free status. "Our surveillance and data show that the US is entitled to this status," he said.

EU BACKS BRITAIN ON IMPORT BAN

The ban on meat imports which do not match Britain's hygiene standards has been declared legal by the European Commission. The ban imposed this month requires all beef sold in Britain to be deboned first — an anti-BSE measure which other states agreed but then delayed. Franz Fischler, the EU Farm Commissioner, told a farming conference in Oxford: "The requirement does not break Community law."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Curb on lottery games in pubs

Pub lottery games would be played only once a day instead of the present 60 under a clampdown on gambling in licensed premises, announced by the Government yesterday. The Home Office has moved to restrict on-line lottery games amid fears that they have similar characteristics to hard gambling and could lead to social problems.

A person breaking the law would face a fine of £5,000 or two years' jail. George Howarth, a junior Home Office minister, said: "Gambling, even if it raises money for charities, needs to be controlled."

Dustbin raid

Police are investigating the theft of bank statements belonging to John Prescott. They were among newspapers he put out for recycling in a bin outside his home in Hull. His bank manager told him a person claiming to be a journalist had enquired about information on the statements.

Mayor ballot

The Conservative candidate for the post of elected London mayor will be chosen in a ballot of all party members in the capital. One of the front-runners is Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare. Other possible contenders include Steven Norris, the former Transport Minister, and Alan Clark, MP.

Kidnap charge

Brendan McFarlane, 47, on parole from the Maze Prison, was remanded in custody by the Special Criminal Court in Dublin, accused of the kidnapping of the millionaire Don Tidey 14 years ago. McFarlane escaped the Maze in 1983, but was recaptured in 1986 in the Netherlands.

Cliff tragedy

Vicky Richardson, 16, who escaped death during a driving lesson when the car went over a cliff, said she lost control just seconds earlier. Andrew Dunklin, 24, was trapped inside as the car hurtled off the cliff at St Agnes Head, north Cornwall. A body was recovered from the sea yesterday.

Gems stolen

A South African couple on holiday in London claimed to have been robbed of jewellery worth £1.5 million by three knife-wielding men who threatened to kill them outside their holiday home in Bayswater as they left a kebab shop. The couple, from Johannesburg, have offered a reward.

Brief apology

A head teacher has apologised for performing a *Full Monty*-style striptease at a Christmas disco. Stan Martin, head of All Saints Primary School in West Bromwich, West Midlands, stripped down to a pair of white boxer shorts to *You Sexy Thing*. Some parents complained.

Mowlam to visit loyalist terrorists in the Maze

BY AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

MO MOWLAM, the Northern Ireland Secretary, will make a personal appeal to loyalist terrorists in the Maze prison to support the peace talks when she makes an unprecendented and controversial visit to the jail tomorrow.

Her surprise decision to meet jailed members of the Ulster Defence Association and Ulster Freedom Fighters has caused outrage in Northern Ireland, where Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party described it as "madness".

Details of the visit were announced after a meeting with prisoners' political representatives in London yesterday. Ms Mowlam is believed to regard the plan as a confidence building measure to placate disgruntled loyalists.

When she enters the Maze on Friday, Ms Mowlam will become the first Secretary of State to visit terrorist prisoners. While in opposition, she held 150 minutes of talks with loyalist prisoners in October 1996.

Gary McMichael, leader of the Ulster Democratic Party, who represents UDA prisoners at the Stormont talks, welcomed Dr Mowlam's announcement yesterday. He said that he had suggested the visit during a 100-minute meeting yesterday in London's Northern Ireland Office. It was a courageous move.

For weeks, loyalists have been claiming that republicans were being pandered to by the British and Irish governments. The disaffection turned to crisis when Billy Wright, leader of the outlawed Loyalist Volunteer Force, was shot dead inside the Maze by republican prisoners. Almost two thirds of the 130 UDA and UFF prisoners voted on Sunday to withhold their support for the peace process.

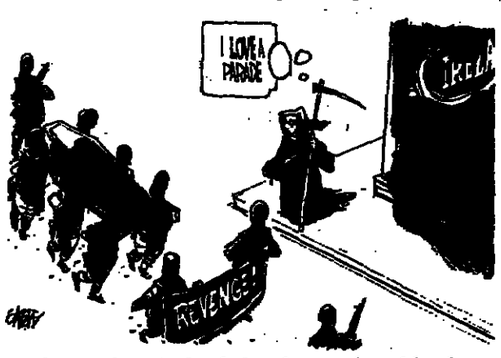
Mr McMichael said that Ms Mowlam's visit would not resolve the crisis and may not avert a UDP decision to pull out of the Stormont talks when they resume on Monday. "However, another door has been opened and it remains to be seen whether any doors can be opened as a result of the visit."

Dr Mowlam, who met Tony Blair before her meeting with Mr McMichael, defended her decision last night. She said on Radio 4: "I don't consider it desperation, I don't consider it odd. I talked to the prisoners in opposition, and what I'm determined to do is make sure I take every step possible to make the talks work."

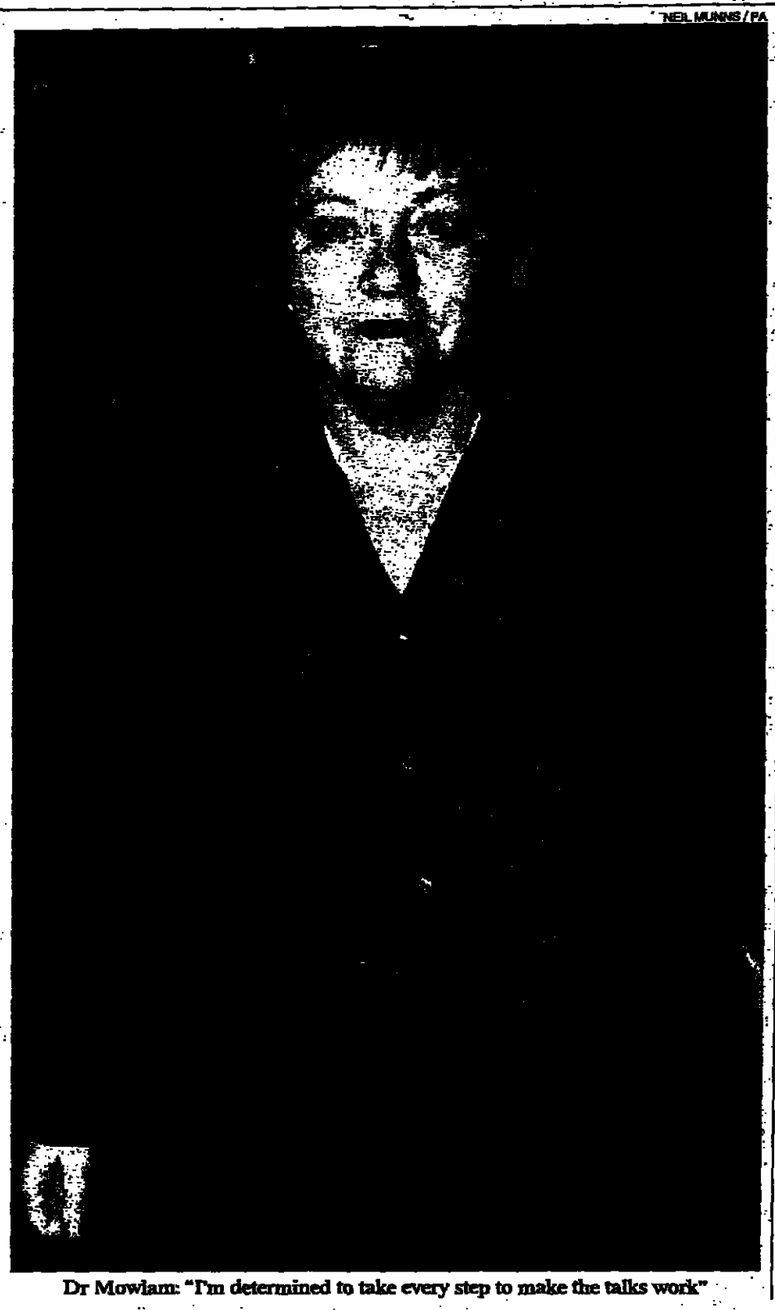
"I have had two meetings with the UDP this week, who have shown that they have serious problems with their prisoners. What I want to do is support Gary McMichael and see what we can do to say to them 'don't give up now, we are moving, we have made a lot of progress in the last two months'."

The Secretary of State insisted she was not going to be negotiating with the prisoners. A spokesman said that it was a one off meeting and not the start of a round of negotiations with loyalist and republican prisoners. He said it lent support to David Trimble, the Unionist Party leader.

Leading article, page 19



The Northern Ireland situation as viewed by the cartoonist Gable of *The Globe and Mail*, Toronto


NEIL MUNNS/PA
Dr Mowlam: "I'm determined to take every step to make the talks work"

Tackling pollution made key EU task

BY NICK NUTTALL AND JILL SHERMAN

THE Prime Minister has made tackling pollution and crime and promoting employment the central themes of Britain's six-month presidency of the European Union, John Prescott said yesterday.

There is to be action against pollution from aircraft, light vans and heavy goods vehicles. Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, said plans included pushing to get more freight onto Europe's railways and through the Channel Tunnel.

Michael Meacher, the junior environment minister, said that the British presidency would be hoping to finally agree a ban on drift nets which are linked with large death rates among dolphins and porpoises in European waters especially in the Bay of Biscay.

Mr Meacher said they would also be re-opening discussions on the European directive allowing the release of genetically modified organisms such as gene altered maize and soya.

Mr Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said another challenge of the presidency was to thrash out how Europe will meet its commitments signed up to at the Kyoto climate conference last month.

Today the Prime Minister plays host to all 20 European Commissioners. He will insist that Britain will play a positive and constructive role in developing the single currency project — even though Britain will not sign up in the first wave.

Later Tony Blair will fly to Japan to clinch a £250 million deal with Toyota and launch a festival of Britain to continue throughout 1998.

Doctors seek ban on human clones

Continued from page 1

the secondary effects of what he is doing."

One danger was that genes could be manipulated so that it was possible to control an entire population or make it vulnerable to genetic weapons that could be developed to target people cloned in a particular way.

Professor Grahame Bulfield, head of the Roslin Institute, was also alarmed by Dr Seed's proposals. He said: "We have taken the view that it is not ethical to apply this technique to human beings and we would certainly not license it with our patents.

"You would need a large number of eggs. We only succeeded with one out of 277 for Dolly. For a human clone you would probably need a thousand eggs, yet a super-ovulated woman can only produce five. You are therefore going to need a whole lot of super-ovulated women to do this and probably up to 50 surrogate mothers.

"A large number of these would end in terminated pregnancies and even among those that went full-term, there would be a number of abnormalities. For all those reasons it would not only be unethical but extremely unwise to try this."

Dr Seed, who has a doctorate in physics from Harvard, rejected suggestions that his proposals were unethical and even claimed that there was a "moral imperative" to proceed. "God mad man in His own image. God intended for man to become one with God," he said in a radio interview on Tuesday. "We are going to become one with God. We are going to have almost as much knowledge and almost as much power as God."

For all the storm that Dr Seed's pronouncement has provoked, no American scientist has openly questioned his ability to undertake the project. Harrith Hasson, chairman of obstetrics and gynaecology at Chicago University's Weiss Memorial Hospital, said: "Richard is a brilliant man. He is a little crazy, but we all have to be a little crazy to go to that level. And if anyone can make human cloning happen, it would be someone like Richard Seed."

MASTERING THE BLACK ART OF SUCCESSFUL CLONING

EVIDENCE that cloning a human from an adult cell will be straightforward could well be misplaced (writes Nigel Hawkes).

The technique is tricky, and something of a black art: it took the scientists at Roslin Institute 277 sheep eggs before they produced a lived cloned lamb. Persuading that many women to donate eggs for such a project might well prove an obstacle, even if Dr Seed is willing to pay. A further complication is the need to match the cell cycle of the recipient egg and that of the donor.

Dr Ian Wilmut, the scientist behind Dolly, estimated at the time it might take two years to carry out such a programme. So Dr Seed's optimistic predictions should be taken with a pinch of salt.

More trains late

Continued from page 1

which will be available publicly from the franchising office later this month.

The figures detail a severe fall in performance year-on-year, with many train operators hitting lows not seen since the worst days of British Rail. There are also signs that the service has worsened since the previous quarter, when Mr O'Brien voiced disappointment at poor punctuality figures.

Great Eastern, which runs commuter services from Essex and Suffolk into London's Liverpool Street station, produced the worst monthly performance since privatisation, when 37 per cent of its trains from November to December ran late. The company this week increased fares by 4.3 per cent, above the inflation rate, because of good performance early last year.

The worst performers were Connex South Central, on which 16 per cent of trains ran late, Connex SE (21), Virgin Cross Country (18), Great Eastern (22), Great Western (17), South West Trains (17) and Virgin West Coast (21). Improvements were shown by companies Silverlink, which runs services in north London and to Northampton, ScotRail in Scotland and Anglia trains in East Anglia.

The figures accelerate a decline in punctuality seen during the summer, although industry figures say that poorer weather contributed to the problems.

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The secret of golf? It's all on the head



How the greats got ahead: a trilby for Sam Snead, a baseball cap for Tiger Woods, a beret for Henry Cotton and a flat cap for Gary Player



RICHARD POHLE

A golfer at Woburn tries the Inertia Golf Hat for size, length and accuracy

Peter Foster and **Adrian Lee** on an invention said to be a boon for the amateur

A PUFF of wind and the ingenuity of an Australian inventor may have produced the answer for amateur golfers who dream of shaving a few strokes off their handicaps. Roy Halle, a 55-year-old mechanical engineer from Sydney, claims the answer to millions of golfing prayers lies in a specially weighted hat.

Even better news for those familiar with the disappointment of yet another false golfing dawn is that Mr Halle's Inertia Golf Hat contains no hidden catches. There is no need for a new grip, deep breathing or positive swing thoughts: just pop the hat on and, Mr Hall promises, the strokes will fall off.

The idea for the invention came about partly by accident, when Mr Halle was playing golf on a stormy day on a course in New South Wales, one of the finest in Australia.

"It was blowing a gale and my hat kept flying off," he said from his home in Sydney yesterday. "So the next day I attached some solder wire to the brim to weigh it down and keep it on my head. Before I knew it, my game started to get better by quantum leaps and I realised it could only be the hat."

Flushed with his discovery, Mr Halle, whose handicap has dropped from 14 to 9 in 12 months, took his idea to a patent lawyer. Six months ago, after carrying out detailed research, he founded the Stability Golf Company and started selling the hats at AUS$40 (£15.50) each. He has already sold 3,500 in Australia and has lodged a worldwide patent application in Geneva in anticipation of global sales.

The theory, according to the 30-page application, is simple. As most golfers learn in their first lesson, the secret to a sound swing is to keep the head as still as possible. The Inertia Golf Hat, with its specially weighted brim, claims to reduce head movement and so improve the shot.

In the patent application, Mr Halle, whose other inventions include a watertight swimming-pool light and a harness to relieve backache while driving, writes: "There is disclosed herein a hat having a brim extending substantially around the head of a wearer, wherein a weight-increasing means is provided on said brim to increase the radius of gyration of said hat."

The invention, reported in *New Scientist magazine*, was the result of much trial and error. Mr Halle estimates the optimum combined mass of the hat and the weighting material to be between 175g and 225g, equivalent to a can of baked beans. The patent application contains diagrams and abstruse mathematical equations used to calculate the effect of varying weights on the movement of the head.

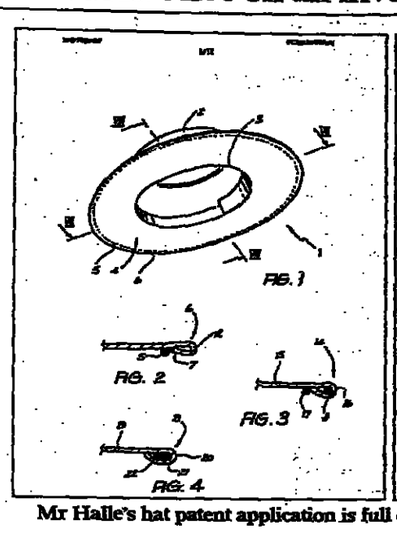
However, Mr Halle says, he has yet to convince some professional golfers in Australia. "I had a pro try it and he said it he hit it straight. But hell, they always do."

Alex Hay, the golf commentator and former tour professional, has seen his fair share of gimmicks since he began teaching the game almost half a century ago. At his office in the Woburn Golf and Country Club in Bedfordshire, he said: "Golf is a game that lends itself to all sorts of theories. In any clubhouse you will find the nutter in the corner who is convinced he has come up with the perfect invention. The truth is I have never seen a gimmick that has lasted. My advice would be to book a lesson with the pro."

He, and Luther Blacklock, the head professional at Woburn, were nonetheless intrigued by the concept of Mr Halle's heavy hat. Blacklock admits to having played in a motorcycle helmet and says he found the extra weight helped to improve his balance.

Hay added: "If it is designed to stop the head bobbing about and to keep it centred in the stance, then it could be a wonderful thing. But if players use it just as a device to keep their head down, or completely stationary, I can't approve. The worst statement you can give to a beginner is, 'keep your head down'. The golf swing cannot work without some head movement."

Golf, page 41



Mr Halle's hat patent application is full of complicated mathematical formulae

GOLFING GIMMICKS THAT GOT LOST IN THE ROUGH

ALEX HAY, the commentator and former professional, has seen scores of gimmicks come and go since he began teaching golf. Most, he confesses, end up in the dustbin, but one or two catch his eye. Among his favourites is the Cayman Islands golf ball, designed to fly half the distance of a conventional ball, and so called because it was invented specifically for an undersize course in the Caymans.

The laser vision visor trains a red dot from the player's cap onto the ball, helping to keep the head still during the putting stroke. Less impressive is the "crutch hook" an American invention that gives the golfer a painful reminder if his head moves excessively.

Woburn stocks one gimmick in the professional's shop — a £6 rubber mould shaped in the grip of Ben Hogan, one of the game's legends. It is one innovation Hay swears by. "You can spend all you like on the swing, but if the grip is wrong, it means nothing."

Husband tells of 'Lady in the Lake' ordeal

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

THE man in the "Lady in the Lake" murder case spoke yesterday of his relief at having the charges against him dropped.

Gordon Park, a retired teacher aged 53, faced trial accused of killing his wife Carol 21 years ago and dumping her body in Coniston Water until the Crown Prosecution Service withdrew its case on Tuesday for lack of evidence.

Mr Park, the father of three grown-up children, said: "The last four months since my arrest at the end of August 1997 have been traumatic. I'd now like to try to put all this — including the events of 21 years ago — behind me and return to my every day life."

He said that he could not have managed without the love and support of his friends and family, and that he greatly appreciated the help offered by many well-wishers during what had been a difficult time.

Mr Park, who lives in Barrow-in-Furness, had to stay in Tyldesley, near Manchester, during the proceedings against him. He is now staying at a secret address after being reunited with his third wife, Jenny, 52. He said that he was "most relieved" that his ordeal was over and hoped that the media would now respect his privacy and leave his family in peace.



Park: wants to put trauma behind him

Yesterday Carol Park's brother spoke of his distress that the prospect of bringing her killer to justice appears as remote as ever. Ivor Price, 57, a retired clerk at Vickers, of Walney, Barrow, said he had hoped that the "torment" brought about by the discovery of his sister's body in the Lake District last August could have been resolved in the courtroom.

Amateur divers found her body by chance in 70 feet of water. Cumbria police began a murder investigation for the killer of Mrs Park, then a 30-year-old school teacher, who had vanished from the family home in Leece, near Barrow, on July 21, 1976.

Police have issued a fresh appeal for witnesses to come forward, insisting that the investigation will continue.

Mr Price, a bereavement counsellor, said: "Our torment goes on. It will never end until my sister's killer is caught. We were preparing for the trial, then yesterday we heard the news. I don't want to see an innocent man stand trial but if he is guilty, that's another story. I want justice for Carol."

He knew that his sister's marriage was unhappy and that she was having affairs, but said he was disgusted that she had been portrayed as a "tart". He said that she cared deeply for her children.

"This is the sort of mystery which will tantalise people for years. Agatha Christie could not have written it better. Carol is an innocent victim and someone has to be brought to justice."

Internet dentist bridges Atlantic

BY LIN JENKINS

A DENTIST who advertised on the Internet has attracted his first transatlantic patient. Cherami Fisher, a sculptor from Dallas, Texas, was surfing the Net looking for answers to her dental problems after becoming disillusioned with conflicting advice from six American practices.

She chanced upon the website set up three months ago by Dr Ian Seddon, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Now she has arrived to combine sightseeing with treatment, which includes the implant of a false tooth.

She said: "I thought that if I was shopping around in the States, I may as well see what was available internationally. I called on a Friday afternoon to make enquiries, and Dr Seddon came back to me on a Saturday morning. It's unheard of for a dental surgeon to work on a Saturday in the States."

Dr Seddon, 31, programmed computers as a hobby while at university. He said: "To get patients from so far away is very rewarding."

Stolen terriers have their day

FOUR valuable pedigree dogs have been reunited with their owner three months after being stolen. The Yorkshire terriers were returned to Ralph Ensz after police raided houses in the West Country. A fifth dog is still missing.

Police received an anonymous tip-off after Mr Ensz, 60, of Goodrich, Hereford and Worcester, appeared on local television to offer a £5,000 reward. Three of the dogs were found at addresses in Cheltenham and nearby Bishop's Cleeve. A fourth was recovered in Devon.

First to be recovered was Daniel, who had twice won best of breed at Crufts. His three kennel mates, Molly, Maggie and Jed, were found at other addresses.



Ralph Ensz, left, is reunited with Maggie and Jed

Mr Ensz said yesterday that Daniel had been in good condition when he was found but he had trouble recognising the other three because they were in poor condition. "The police have been absolutely marvellous," he said. "They have been so caring and co-operative and the dog warden is a wonderful person. It is wonderful to have the dogs home. I can't believe it. Daniel is so relaxed and happy to be back."

Mr Ensz, who works at the American Embassy in London, said he believed the theft from his home in October was the work of professional dog thieves. He and his partner Brian Downey have bred and shown Yorkshire terriers for 17 years.

"Without them, the life had gone out of our living, the house was lonely and empty and the two remaining dogs were acting very strangely."

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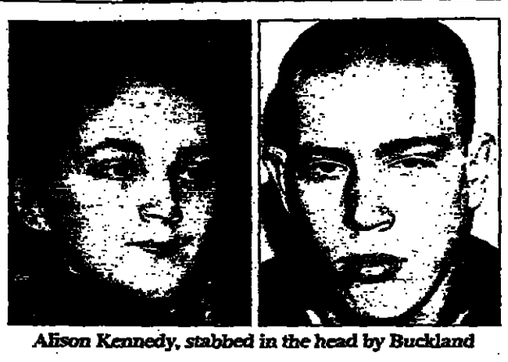
GCSE artwork exposed obsession with death

Joanna Bale on a homeless teenager guilty of an horrific knife attack

A HOMELESS teenager was convicted yesterday of attempting to murder a woman on a late-night train by ramming a knife into her head.

Robert Buckland, 18, who has no previous convictions, suffered from a psychopathic disorder, the Old Bailey was told after the verdict. He claimed he had intended to snatch Alison Kennedy's handbag, but had stabbed the five-inch blade of his combat knife into her skull up to the hilt in a "rush of anger".

Police yesterday released macabre pictures that Buckland had drawn for his GCSE art course at school, including one of a man with a knife embedded in his head. Another, entitled "Self-portrait", depicts four decapitated heads and a man saying: "That's how many people I have killed and their heads to prove it." Other pictures, drawn when Buckland was 14, show a guillotine execution, eyes being gouged out, the Grim Reaper and gravestones. Buckland, who was brought up in Romford, Essex, achieved poor grades in all his GCSEs, including art.



Alison Kennedy, stabbed in the head by Buckland

The pictures were ruled inadmissible evidence and were not shown to the jury. Detectives also confirmed that Buckland wrote about his murderous fantasies in notebooks found among his possessions.

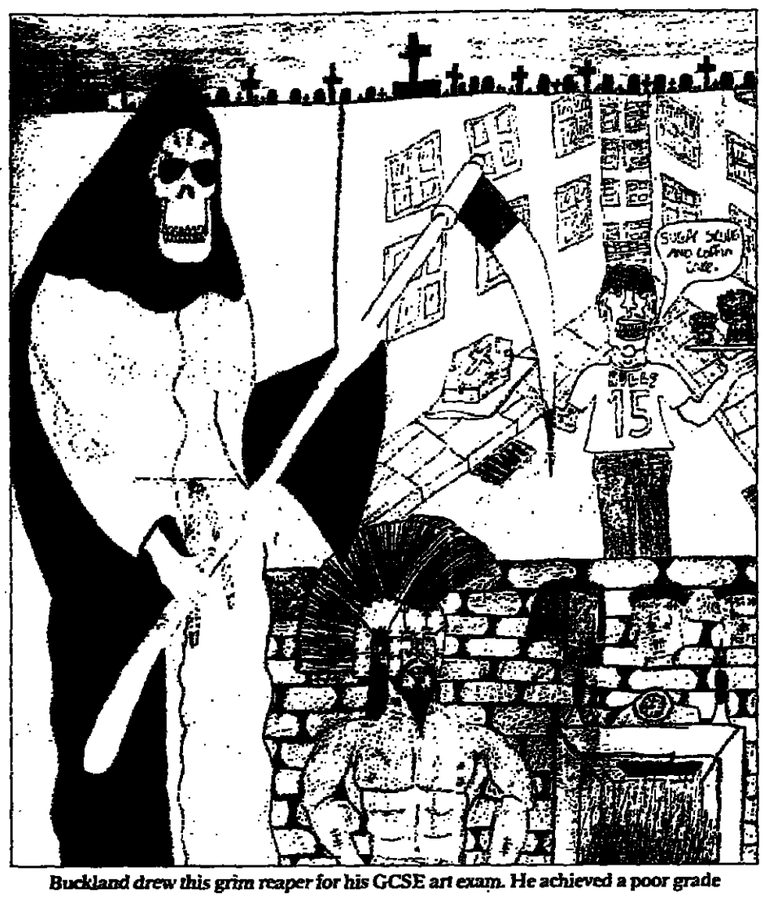
Nigel Eastman, who diagnosed Buckland as a psychopath, said that he craved attention and affection and sometimes exploded into violence. He had made half-hearted attempts to hang himself while in custody, had cut himself and taken noxious substances.

Dr Eastman said: "This offence arose simply from inside his head. Nothing in the external world could in any way explain what this young man did."

Judge Geoffrey Grigson told Buckland that he was considering an "indeterminate sentence" as the case was "most serious". Adjourning sentencing until February 13, he said he wanted a Broadmoor psychiatrist and another specialist to assess Buckland's condition to establish whether prison or a secure hospital was appropriate.

Miss Kennedy, 28, said afterwards: "I feel a great sense of relief at the result and a great sense of satisfaction to be here to see it for myself. I would like to say thanks to everyone who helped me and I am looking forward to getting on with my life."

Detective Inspector Ron Wainer of the British Transport Police, who led the investigation, said her survival had been miraculous. "One of the astonishing things in this investigation is how someone could suffer such injuries and live."



Buckland drew this grim reaper for his GCSE art exam. He achieved a poor grade

Scars that still haunt victim of a psychopath

IN THE split second it took for a homeless psychopath to thrust a knife into her head, Alison Kennedy's life was blighted forever. Described by friends as "lively and gregarious" before the attack, she is now a shadow of her former self.

The Old Bailey was told that Miss Kennedy, from Londonderry, a former education officer for the Multiple Sclerosis Society in Northern Ireland, is currently receiving psychiatric treatment three times a week as a hospital outpatient after suffering a relapse when Buckland's trial was aborted in November — his QC had fallen ill.

Detective Inspector Wainer, who got to know her during the investigation, said yesterday: "She has been left with tunnel vision and a loss of feeling in her left arm, which is traumatic enough, but the emotional scars are horrendous. This was an horrific assault and she was fully conscious throughout. It is obviously something that will take a great deal of time to come to terms with."

Surgeon says survival was a miracle

THE consultant who operated on Alison Kennedy said that her survival was "nothing short of a miracle".

Adrian Casey, a neurological consultant at Charing Cross Hospital, said the knife narrowly missed her brain stem, avoiding serious disability or death. When Miss Kennedy arrived at hospital, still conscious, her movements were jerky but she could move her limbs and her pupils reacted normally, indicating that she did not have severe brain damage.



Buckland's knife

Mr Casey said that "to survive relatively intact from an injury of this kind is nothing short of a miracle". He added: "When she came to us she was lying on a trolley with a knife coming out of her head. The amazing thing was that she was awake and alert despite this horrific injury.

"We put her asleep under general anaesthetic and then in theatre we opened up the wound where the knife had shattered the skull and we drilled with a high-speed drill around the knife so we had full access to the brain and then I cautiously removed the knife.

"There was some blood from the surface of the brain, but fortunately, deep down, which is our major worry, there was no major bleeding."

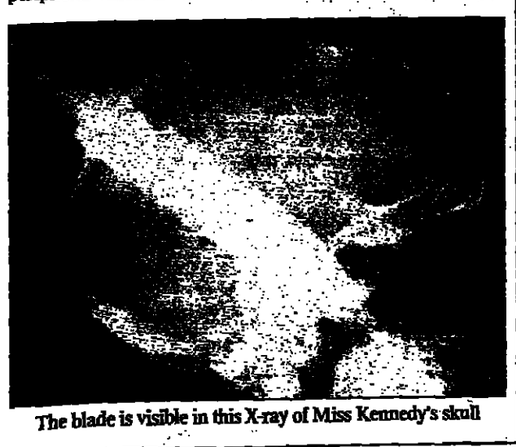
The 2½-hour operation left a gap in her skull the size of a 50p piece, which will be covered with a metal plate next month. She has lost peripheral vision and all feeling in her left arm. She is also at risk of epilepsy.

Mr Casey, who carried out the operation at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in London, has performed similar surgery: one patient had a screwdriver in his head; another, a drill.

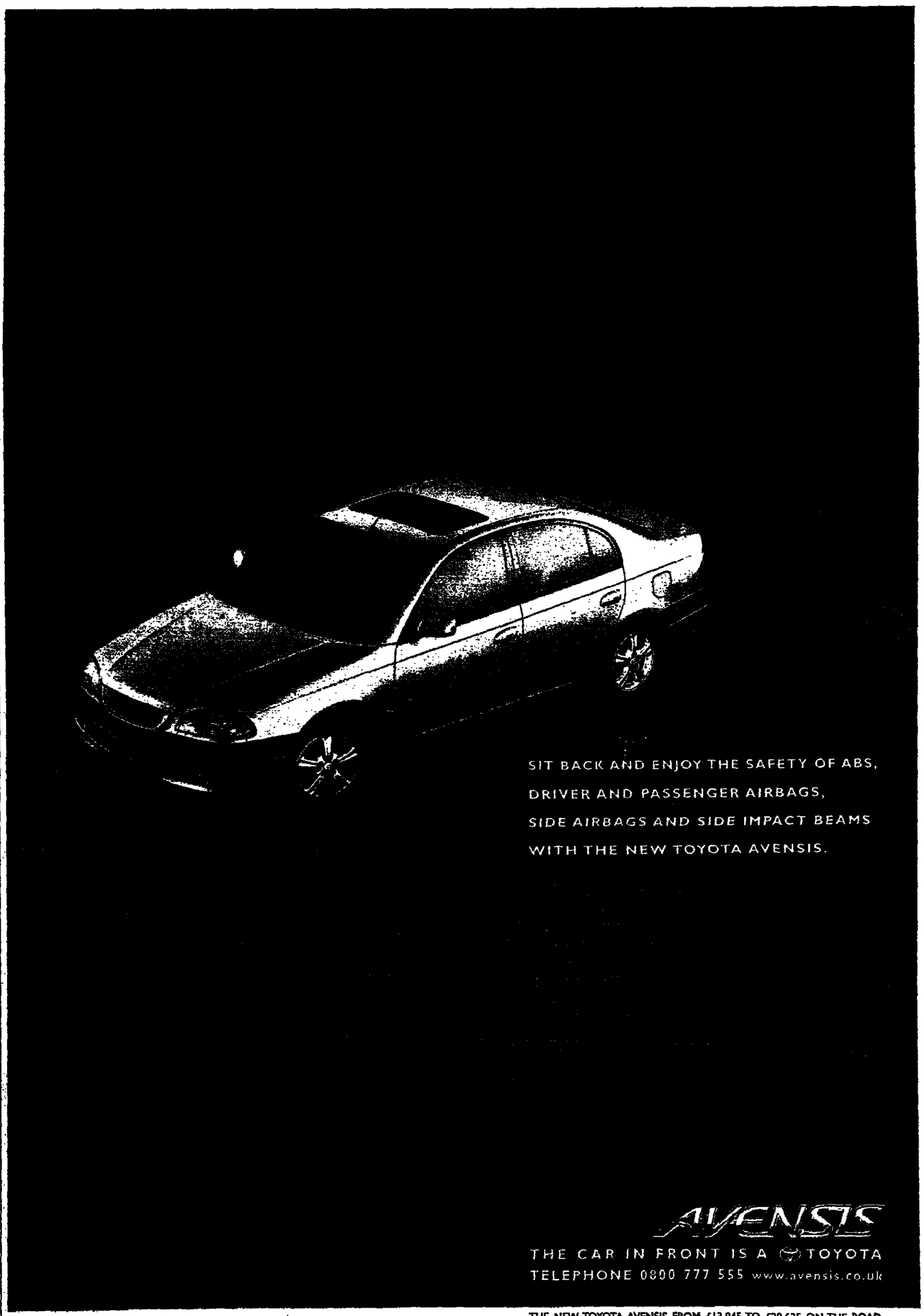
People frequently survive spikes, knives, garden implements and many other objects penetrating their skulls. In one case, a person committed suicide with a Black and Decker drill — but succeeded only with the fifth hole.

James Palmer, consultant neurosurgeon at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, had a patient with a snooker cue driven through one eye that penetrated to the top of the skull. In another case a pitchfork in the back of a car went straight through the head of a motorist who braked suddenly.

"Everyone thinks the brain is such a marvellous, important part of the body that you can't do anything to it without it being curtains; but that's not the case," he said.



The blade is visible in this X-ray of Miss Kennedy's skull



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Abuse inquiry blames Labour incompetence

A poisonous brand of local politics allowed a child molester to operate unchecked in Hackney's social services. **Mark Henderson** reports

HACKNEY council acted improperly and incompetently in its handling of child abuse allegations against a social worker who later died of an Aids-related illness, an inquiry found yesterday.

The Labour-run London borough twice allowed Mark Trotter to continue working with children while he was under investigation, bungled an independent inquiry into his conduct and allowed its social services department to be crippled by a "poisonous" atmosphere that pervaded local politics in the 1980s, according to the report by John Barratt, a former chief executive of Cambridgeshire County Council.

The council's Labour group was cleared of corruptly covering up the allegations against its former employee, who was a prominent Labour activist, but Mr Barratt said that councillors' obsession with vindictive personal abuse had allowed incompetence to thrive, directly contributing to a failure to protect children.

The findings will discomfort the Labour Party, which in 1996 chose to back the ruling Labour group against 17 councillors who broke away and demanded an inquiry into the Trotter affair.

The inquiry centred on allegations that Trotter, who worked for the authority from 1981 to his retirement because of ill-health in 1993, had abused at least six children in his care. He was about to be arrested by Merseyside police in connection with alleged abuse during his previous job in Liverpool when he died of bronchial pneumonia in July 1995. He had full-blown Aids.

An NSPCC investigation for the council published last July concluded that there was a "strong likelihood" that Trotter had abused at least six children in Hackney, though none had contracted HIV.

Hackney received several complaints that Trotter had abused children in the borough and in Liverpool, the first within two months of employing him, yet after the first occasion he was not suspended or moved to other work. Mr Barratt found this decision "improper", though not corrupt, and suggested that it was taken because of the political sensitivity of disciplining Trotter, who was a senior union official. "The appalling organisation of, and the prevailing political attitudes within, the council prevented appropriate professional/managerial action being taken. I consider the background to the failure to suspend Mark Trotter to have led to a corporate failure that was improper."

The council had decided that no action was needed because, for lack of evidence, none of the complaints against Trotter had led to a prosecution. Mr Barratt said. He found that the internal inquiry into the allegations had been inadequate, and he was strongly critical of its author, Len Reilley, social services area manager, who did not submit his report until he had left his job. The director of social services, Joyce Moseley, and her deputy, Dinah Morley, were attacked for appointing him and failing properly to supervise his work.

The report cleared Labour councillors of covering up the affair or corruptly favouring Trotter because of his party links, but blamed them directly for encouraging a vindictive and spiteful brand of local politics that made such suspicions a fact of life in the borough: "Defamatory rumour is regarded as a standard political weapon in Hackney. There is a tradition of scurrilous and abusive references to the motives and practices of opponents."

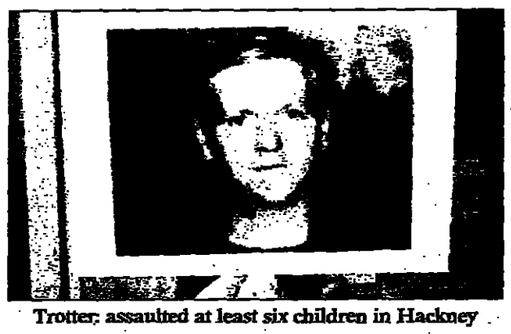
Mr Barratt recommended a multi-agency approach to childcare, involving police and social services more closely, to try to thwart people like Trotter. A ministerial task-force chaired by Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, was set up in November after similar proposals by Sir William Utting's report into abuse in children's homes. Paul Boateng, a Health Minister, said that a social services White Paper to be published in the spring would "strengthen the law, toughen up and make more transparent the system of inspection and regulation".

John McCafferty, the council's Labour group leader, said: "I am pleased the independent report has concluded there was no cover-up."

No party has had absolute control of Hackney since the breakaway from the Labour group. Tom Brake, a former councillor and now Liberal Democrat MP for Carshalton and Wallington, said the report had far from vindicated Labour. "Hackney council sums up what a rotten Labour inner-city borough is all about."



Barratt: criticised failure to suspend Mark Trotter



Trotter: assaulted at least six children in Hackney

Care worker's cheerful facade hid dark secret

BY MARK HENDERSON

WHEN Mark Trotter arrived at Hackney council in 1981 with two glowing references, there was little to indicate that he would be anything but a fine addition to a team caring for some of the most deprived children in Britain.

Polite and cheerful, Trotter, then aged 20, had had recent experience of being in care at children's homes in Liverpool. The three council officers who interviewed him were impressed by his application, in which he set out how he had run a playscheme and Scout troop in a deprived area, and his record at an assessment centre in Merseyside. They thought he would be an "asset to the staff team".

Openly gay and left-wing, he also fitted in well with the prevailing political culture of Hackney, which was gaining a reputation as a "loony-Left" council. He became a Labour agent and an officer in Nalgo, the local government union, and was popular among colleagues.

It was not long, though, before the darker side of his character began to show. In December 1981, less than two months after he joined Trowbridge House, a 15-year-old boy complained that Trotter had interfered with him. After a further allegation in January, he was suspended and investigated by the police, but a disciplinary hearing in June found no evidence of misconduct and he was reinstated.

As he began to establish himself as a Labour activist, complaints about his conduct in Liverpool began to surface. Again, no charges were brought, but this time Hackney did not suspend him when informed of the police investigation and he became a field social worker in 1986.

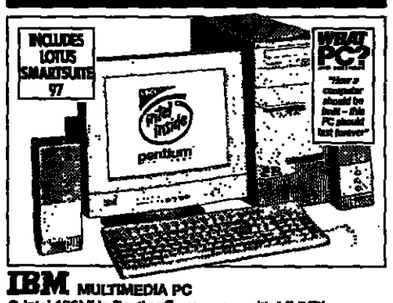
When a teenage girl accused him of indecent assault in 1987, a Hackney investigation once more found no need to discipline or suspend him. That year he was appointed a governor of Wentworth Nursery School by the Labour Party, a position he held until 1994.

He retired on health grounds in 1993, by which time he had full-blown Aids. When he died in 1995, colleagues discussed setting up a memorial fund in his name.

It was as he became terminally ill that the net began to close on Trotter. Merseyside police opened investigations after five former residents of the Liverpool home in which he had worked made allegations. Detective Superintendent Albert Kirby, who led the investigation, said: "We went to arrest him and found that two weeks previously he had died. Had Trotter lived, the strength of the evidence makes it likely he would have been given a prison sentence."

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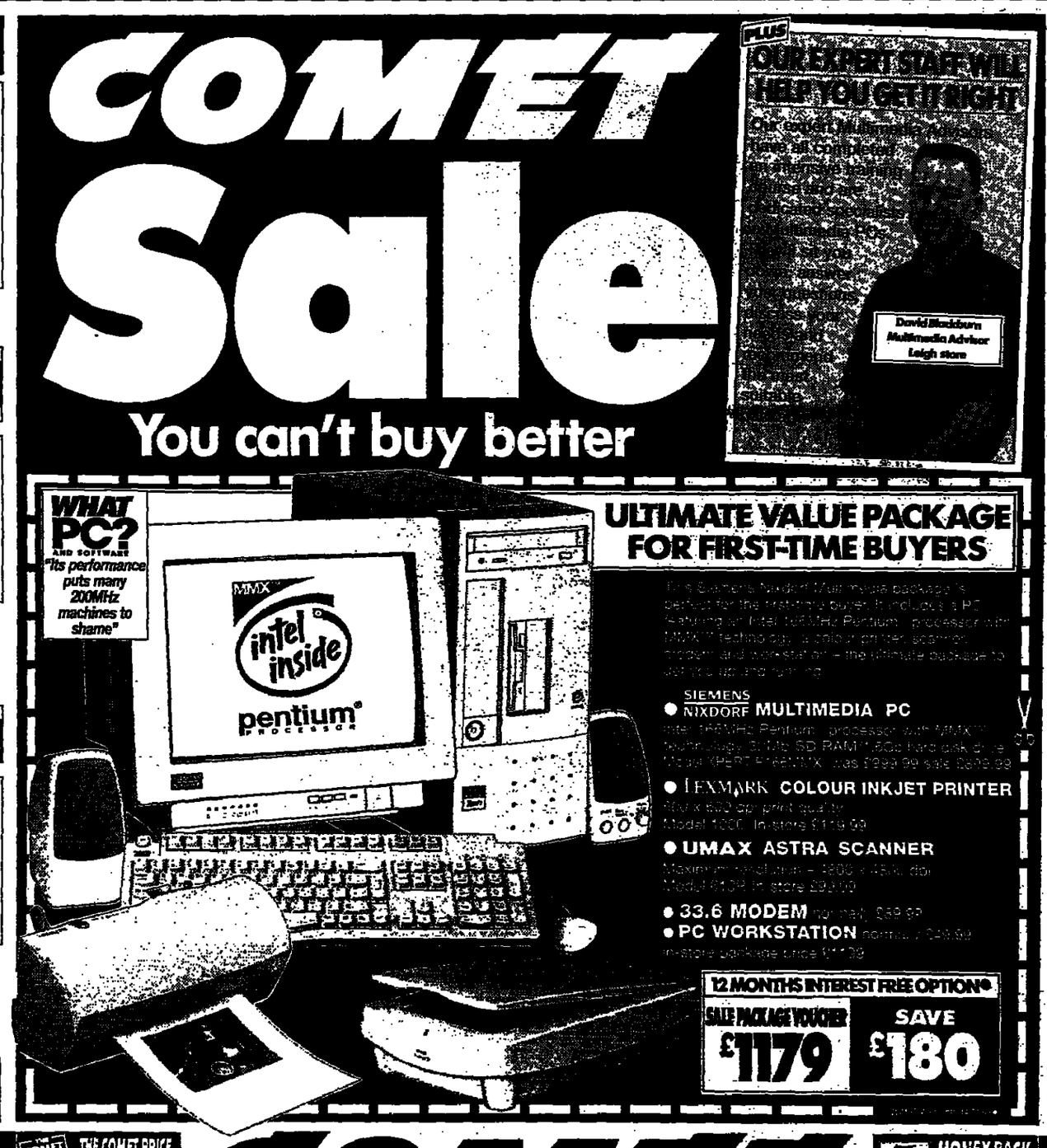
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Family jailed for BA passenger burglaries

Helen Johnstone reports how raiders were caught in undercover sting

POLICE investigating a rash of burglaries in Hampshire suddenly realised that 22 of the victims had something else in common: they had all been on holiday at the time of the thefts.

Not only that, but all of them had flown with British Airways from Southampton.

In six months, tens of thousands of pounds worth of property was stolen, including £28,000 in one raid alone. It seemed clear that whoever was behind the crimes had access to prescise information about their addresses and the dates they would be away from home. That was when police decided to set a trap.

Their suspicions centred on Katherine Harrison, 23, an airport ticket worker they suspected of tapping into computer records to access passengers' home addresses and confirm the dates of their holidays or business trips.

Posing as a wealthy antiques dealer, an undercover officer made sure she overheard him talking about his valuable furniture while making a reservation. The following evening police staked out the target house and her brother, Gary Harrison, and another man, Jade Ifould, were caught red-handed as they broke in.



Jailed: Gary Harrison and Jade Ifould. Pictures of Peter Harrison were not available from police

As the Harrisons, from Totton, Hampshire, started jail sentences yesterday, British Airways promised a security review. Southampton Crown Court heard how Katherine Harrison, who was employed by Southampton Handling, a ticket agent for British Airways, used her position to access passenger information. Judge Patrick Hooton described it as "just about the worst breach of trust I have ever seen". She admitted conspiracy and disclosing data contrary to the Data Protection Act and was close to tears as she was jailed for three years.

Tim Moores, for the prosecution, said Harrison had passed information to her father Peter, 46, who arranged the break-ins. He was sentenced to four years after admitting conspiracy to burgle. He changed his plea on the eve of his trial. Gary Harrison, who also admitted conspiracy relating to five burglaries involving BA passengers carried out shortly after he was released from prison on another matter, was jailed for six years.

Ifould, 23, of Lymington, Hampshire, who admitted burglary and a separate matter of handling stolen goods, was jailed for two years.

After the case, BA spokeswoman Sue Redmond sought to reassure BA passengers that information given to the airline was safe and confidential. "We do already have very strict security procedures in place. Incidents of this type are very few and far between and we are working together with the airport, police and Southampton Handling to ensure this does not happen again."

Jan Halliday, a spokesman for Southampton International Airport, said it was the first breach of its kind at the airport and procedures had been put in place to ensure it could not happen again.

Roger Edge, general manager of Southampton Handling, who had employed Katherine Harrison for two years, said he had not heard of a similar operation in 27 years in the air travel business. Valuable lessons had been learnt and acted upon.



Katherine Harrison, who fed the gang with addresses of passengers abroad

Inquiry into claim of threats by police

BY PAUL WILKINSON

TWO more detectives from Cleveland's "zero tolerance" CID unit were under investigation yesterday after a burglary suspect claimed in court that they had threatened to throw him into a dock unless he confessed.

Cleveland Constabulary last night said the incident was not part of its Operation Lancet inquiry into police corruption. Four officers, including the Middlesbrough CID head, have been suspended and three others moved.

On Monday at Teesside Crown Court, two burglary charges against John Kimmings, 24, from Middlesbrough, were withdrawn. Signed confessions by him were produced, but he claimed he was in a probation hostel at the time of the offences. He alleged that two officers had driven him to Middlesbrough docks and threatened to drop him in unless he confessed.

Recorder Peter Bullock described the case as "most unsatisfactory".

Dinosaurs are dead and that is final

REPORTS BY NICK NUTTALL

THE scientific ideas behind *Jurassic Park* have been proved impossible. After two years of research, British scientists say that genetic material cannot even be extracted from lifeforms trapped in amber millions of years ago.

Steven Spielberg's film, in which scientists used fossilised DNA to clone dinosaurs, was given some scientific credence in 1993 by an American researcher, by Raol Cano, who claimed to have extracted genetic fragments from 25-million-year-old insects caught in amber. Yesterday, Andrew Smith of the Natural History Museum in London disclosed that intensive work had failed to replicate the findings.

Dr Smith, who is part of the Natural Environment Research Council's Ancient Biomolecules Initiative, added: "I think it is fair to say that *Jurassic Park* will remain science fiction."



Amber: holds no hope

The upper limit of extracting any meaningful amounts of DNA from animal remains appeared to be 50,000 to 100,000 years, which includes the age of sabre tooth tigers, Neanderthal man and woolly mammoths.

The scientists tried a string of different DNA extraction techniques and a range of tissues from lifeforms frozen in Dominican amber. The £1.9 million project has shed some light on the past. Using DNA fingerprinting techniques, researchers have shown that the original settlers of Easter Island in the Pacific were Polynesians, rather than the peoples of prehistoric South America, as some archaeologists once thought.

Adrian Lister, of University College London, said that genetic studies of the remains of ancient horses, unearthed at Gough's cave in Cheddar, Somerset, indicated that there was once a wild horse whose population stretched across Eurasia and modern day North America. About 5,000 years ago, man began domesticating the horses, from which the large number of modern breeds have emerged.

They were searching for the origin of the wild horse from which modern varieties have been bred. The likeliest possibility was thought to be the region now covered by Kazakhstan.

Diagnosis is 3,000 years late

EGYPTIAN mummies are expected to reveal what diseases ancient man suffered.

Scientists at University College London are among those studying nerve fibres, and the chemicals they contain, from the ankles of seven Egyptian mummies aged 2,000 to 3,500 years. Samples of nerve tissues were also taken from a 1,000-year-old Peruvian mummy.

Chemical signals produced at nerve endings, called neurotransmitters, are reduced in range if damaged, the team reports in *New Scientist*. The damage can be caused by diseases including diabetes, alcoholism and other disorders.

When chickens ruled the Earth

CHINESE scientists are examining remains of two chicken-sized dinosaurs which probably developed their feathers to keep warm rather than to fly.

Sinosauropteryx lived 140 million years ago. The remains of two were found recently at Liaoning in northeastern China. They are described in *Nature* today as two-legged, with a pointed head, long tail and three-fingered hand, one large claw-like finger probably being used to kill prey.

Vertical fibres ran from the base of the head along the back and tail. But the scientists believe the creatures were incapable of flight. It is possible the "feathers" were used to stop the dinosaur losing body heat, suggesting it was warm-blooded. Going further into prehistory, two American scientists have found a 370 million-year-old fin in Pennsylvania which indicates ancient fish had "fingers".



Until now most scientists believed finger-like digits evolved as animals colonised the land from the sea.

Police seek tougher drink-drive powers

CHRISTMAS DRINK-DRIVE CAMPAIGN 1997-98

Figures for England and Wales	Total number tests after collisions	Total number positive	Total number injury accidents
	1997	1997	1997
Avon and Somerset	145	30	80
Bedfordshire	190	13	62
Cambridgeshire	203	17	64
Cheshire	358	30	144
City of London	15	0	6
Cleveland	137	4	67
Cumbria	229	11	71
Derbyshire	374	17	135
Devon and Cornwall	412	43	109
Dorset	121	8	104
Durham	98	15	66
Dyfed Powys	117	16	28
Essex	493	20	201
Gloucestershire	126	15	67
Greater Manchester	650	63	406
Gwent	94	12	18
Hampshire	355	65	138
Hertfordshire	167	20	78
Humberside	191	32	115
Kent	322	33	144
Lancashire	523	65	218
Leicestershire	302	12	49
Lincolnshire	153	16	68
Merseyside	600	23	188
Metropolitan	2691	247	1525
Norfolk	263	16	93
Northamptonshire	283	12	67
Northumbria	446	47	233
North Wales	257	43	72
North Yorkshire	271	18	113
Nottinghamshire	320	23	104
South Wales	430	28	151
South Yorkshire	241	25	140
Staffordshire	162	20	92
Suffolk	213	11	65
Surrey	279	21	153
Sussex	306	41	265
Thames Valley	569	60	335
Warwickshire	214	9	102
West Mercia	468	46	144
West Midlands	889	69	279
West Yorkshire	640	64	244
Wiltshire	138	27	81
TOTAL	15455	1430	6881

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CHIEF constables called yesterday for wider police powers to stop suspected drink-drivers as Christmas figures showed that 9 per cent of motorists who had accidents were over the limit.

Under proposals submitted to the Government, restrictions on the use of breath tests would be relaxed. Police would respond to tip-offs by stopping suspected drink-drivers as they left pubs or arrived home.

The figures for the 43 forces in England and Wales show that between December 18 and January 2, 15,455 tests were carried out after accidents. They resulted in 1,430 positive readings. Over Christmas, 6,881 accidents caused injury.

Paul Manning, Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and head of the traffic committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers, said changes to the law have been broached with Baroness Hayman, the Roads Minister, who had warmly received the proposals.

Police are empowered to stop cars and to carry out breath tests by the Road Traffic Act and the Road Safety Act respectively. They can administer the test if there has been an accident or moving traffic offence or if they suspect that a driver has been drinking.

Mr Manning said that police did not want the power to carry out random tests, but they needed more discretion in dealing with suspected drink-drivers. They wanted to concentrate on the hardcore who ignored the law. Many of these drivers were among those who tested positive during the Christmas campaign against drink-driving.

He said that he was disappointed by the number of motorists who had tested positive after a campaign urging them not to drive however little they had drunk. They had "flagrantly decided to flout the law and put themselves and others at risk".

Until two years ago, all police forces issued details of all tests carried out. Last year the national figures were limited to the number of positive tests, which totalled 5,209. There were also 919 accidents linked to drink.

Mr Manning said that no clear comparison could be made with last year's figures because not all forces were then carrying out tests after accidents. This year's figures would become the basis for comparisons next year, allowing the effectiveness of the campaigns to be judged.

Figures from the 12 forces that did reveal their total number of tests show there were 35,518. These led to 1,478 positive readings, or 4.6 per cent. The average number of tests per force was 2,959. The number of tests varied according to the resources and policies of forces.

JAMIE JONES



Police and firefighters examine the wreckage at the scene of the M6 accident in which three people died

M6 pile-ups leave four dead

BY BILL HOFFMANN

FOUR people died and six were injured yesterday in two multiple pile-ups which brought chaos to the M6.

Three people died when three lorries and two cars were involved in a collision between junction nine and ten near Wednesbury, West Midlands, at about 6.15 yesterday morning when a lorry veered across the central reservation and ploughed into four oncoming vehicles.

Police said the tragedy would have been far worse had it happened an hour later, during the morning rush hour.

After smashing through the central barriers, the articulated lorry hit two other trucks and two cars, one of which burst into flames. The drivers of the two trucks died, one at the scene and another at Walsall Manor Hospital after he suffered a heart attack. A driver of one of the cars also died. The dead, all men, were not immediately identified. The driver of the articulated lorry was said to be in "severe shock". Two others were treated for minor injuries.

The accident caused a 15-mile tailback in both directions for more than an hour as rescue crews struggled to free passengers trapped in the wreckage.

The fourth death happened shortly afterwards, in an eight-car pile-up about 100 miles further north along the motorway, near Garstang in Lancashire. Four people were injured.

Watchdog wants green light for cheaper cars

BY KEVIN EASON
MOTORING EDITOR

CAR manufacturers who allegedly prevent lower-priced models from the Continent being available to British buyers are to be reported to the European Commission by the Consumers' Association, which claims that competition laws are being flouted.

Its report today comes as figures show sales of new cars in Britain at 2.17 million last year, the third highest. A record 66 per cent were made in foreign factories.

As cars from Renault, Citroen, Volkswagen, Mercedes and BMW flooded in, researchers at the association's magazine *Which?* were trying to discover how much British motorists could save buying the same cars in a foreign showroom. They discovered dealers abroad selling models such as Mercedes, Ford, Nissan, Renault and Vauxhall (badged Opel on the Continent) up to £4,000 cheaper than advertised in British showrooms in Britain.

But many of the foreign dealers refused to order a car with right-hand drive for the British market. Some complained that the manufacturer might take action against them. Andrew McIlwraith, senior editor of *Which?*, said: "It can pay to buy abroad, but it seems that some car makers are going out of their way to make it difficult."

The strength of the pound has made this one of the best times to buy abroad, particularly in Holland where most dealers speak English. The problem is finding a dealer who will supply a right-hand drive and then getting the manufacturer to acknowledge warranty claims in this country. Of 17 dealers contacted, only one in Utrecht was willing to supply a right-hand drive, offering a Ford Fiesta 1.25 Ghia for about £8,000, including delivery, compared with the British showroom price of £11,255.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders refused to comment, leaving compliance with European regulations to individual firms.

TOP SELLERS

With country of manufacture

1 Ford Fiesta (UK); 2 Ford Escort (UK); 3 Ford Mondeo (Belgium); 4 Vauxhall Vectra (UK); 5 Vauxhall Astra (UK); 6 Vauxhall Corsa (Spain); 7 Peugeot 306 (UK); 8 Rover 200 (UK); 9 Rover 400 (UK); 10 Renault Clio (France); 11 Renault Megane (France); 12 Volkswagen Polo (Germany); 13 Peugeot 106 (France); 14 Peugeot 406 (France); 15 Fiat Punto (Italy); 16 Nissan Micra (UK); 17 Renault Laguna (France); 18 BMW 3-series (Germany); 19 Volkswagen Golf (Germany); 20 Citroen Saxo (France)

Source: Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders

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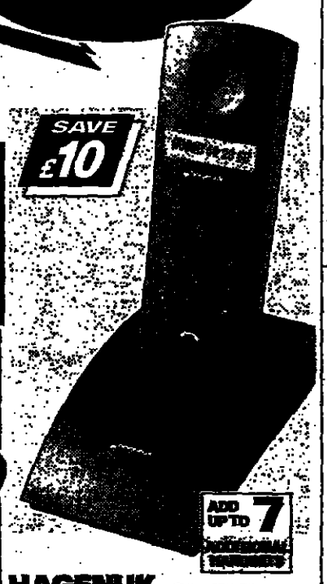
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هكذا من الأصل

MP ended his wife's job 'to get rid of her'



Jimmy Wray: jobs with MPs ended at dissolution

Jimmy Wray denies sacking his wife at election, **Shirley English** reports

A LABOUR MP said to have sacked his estranged wife as his constituency secretary after the general election told an industrial tribunal yesterday that he had wanted her out of his life.

Jimmy Wray, 63, MP for Glasgow Baillieston, told the hearing that Catherine, 49, continued to work for him until last year's election although they had separated two years earlier. She was paid £9,700 a year to act as his constituency secretary but when the election was called he saw it as his "easy way out". His solicitor, Ross Pilkington, claimed that it was an unwritten understanding that the employment of MPs' secretaries terminated when Parliament was dissolved.

The MP had therefore not sacked his wife, despite her performance having been unsatisfactory since the separation in April 1995. Mr Wray told the Glasgow tribunal: "I did not want to be in a position of sacking my wife. I did not want to see her landed on skid row. I was being more than kind by carrying on her employment. If it had been anyone else but my wife I would probably have sacked them.

"All I want is to get rid of my wife once and for all," he continued, amid muffled giggles from the public benches. "I don't want any more to do with her. I will be glad to get her out of my life."

Mr Wray is now living with another woman.

"I am not here to condemn anyone," he said. "I just want justice. I had a traumatic experience the same as she did. When people get into that situation it can become a vendetta and that is what happened with us. Any person would not work at their best when they have a marital problem."

Mr Pilkington claimed that Mrs Wray had attempted to "hinder and obstruct" her husband's career. Mail was passed on to him late, sometimes six weeks after it had been posted. Messages and calls went unanswered and she even went on holiday without informing him.

Mrs Wray, a former exercise teacher who is training to be an aromatherapist, denied that her husband had ever complained about her work or that he had ever warned her that her job would end with the election. Had there been been problems, with mail for example, he could at any time have diverted his correspondence to another address. She had received a bonus as late as December 1996 in view of her hard work and her wages had continued to increase each year.

Her solicitor, Tony Caplan, pointed out that the contract she signed in 1989 did not mention any fixed term of employment and she had not been required to renew it after the 1992 election. It also stated that she would be paid during the dissolution.

Having worked for Mr Wray during the general election campaign, his wife received a letter on May 9 stating that her employment had terminated on April 30, the eve of polling day.

Under questioning Mrs Wray admitted she had received £2,000 from her husband last month which she claimed was to help her to pay off a "poll tax bill": this had nothing to do with settlement of her unfair dismissal claim as her husband alleged.

The tribunal will issue a written decision at a later date.

After the hearing Mr Wray claimed that his wife was "full of greed" and wanted the marital home. The tribunal proceedings, he said, were "only chickenfeed. But I won't allow anyone to take me to the cleaners".

He said he and his girlfriend, Laura Walker, 36, whom he met in September 1995, had to live in rented accommodation. "I am anxious to get married because my girl is four months pregnant," he said. Mr Wray has three grown-up children by his first wife Mary, one of whom is his new secretary.



Catherine Wray: worked on despite separation

Study fails to link film violence to crime

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A STUDY backed by the Home Office has failed to establish that video or film violence causes crime.

Young aggressive offenders prefer violent films and identify with vindictive characters in movies, according to the research, published yesterday. But although the study found that offenders brought up in an aggressive family background would choose to watch violent films and identified with violent figures, such films did not cause crime.

Almost three quarters of violent offenders admitted that the aggressive parts of films excited them the most and almost 90 per cent of all offenders chose a violent films as their favourite.

Kevin Browne, joint author of a two-year study commissioned following the death of James Bulger, warned of the possible longer-term influence of violent films on offenders. "This may go on to make their own violent behaviour more frequent."

Dr Browne, of the school of psychology at Birmingham University, said that the possibility remained that, once the taste for video violence was developed, that diet could nurture increasingly anti-social behaviour.

The research involved 122 males aged 15-21: 34 violent offenders, 28 non-violent criminals, and 40 non-offenders.

"The research points to a pathway from having a violent home background, to being an offender, to being more likely to prefer violent films and violent actors," the report said.

The video industry said the report was proof that it had been unfairly criticised for its alleged detrimental influence on impressionable young minds.

A Prison Service spokesman said: "In the light of this report we will look more closely at the videos shown in young offender institutions to try to ensure that the film should not cause any problems about distorted perceptions of violence."

The British Board of Film Classification said in a statement: "The research shows that most young people are not strongly influenced by video violence, but some could be, and they include the most violent and potentially dangerous young people in Britain.

"Given the tendency for offenders to seek out validation of their own violent impulses, it was worrying to find the authorities in secure institutions allowing offenders to see videos classified well above their age."

The Home Office said the report would be considered carefully by ministers.

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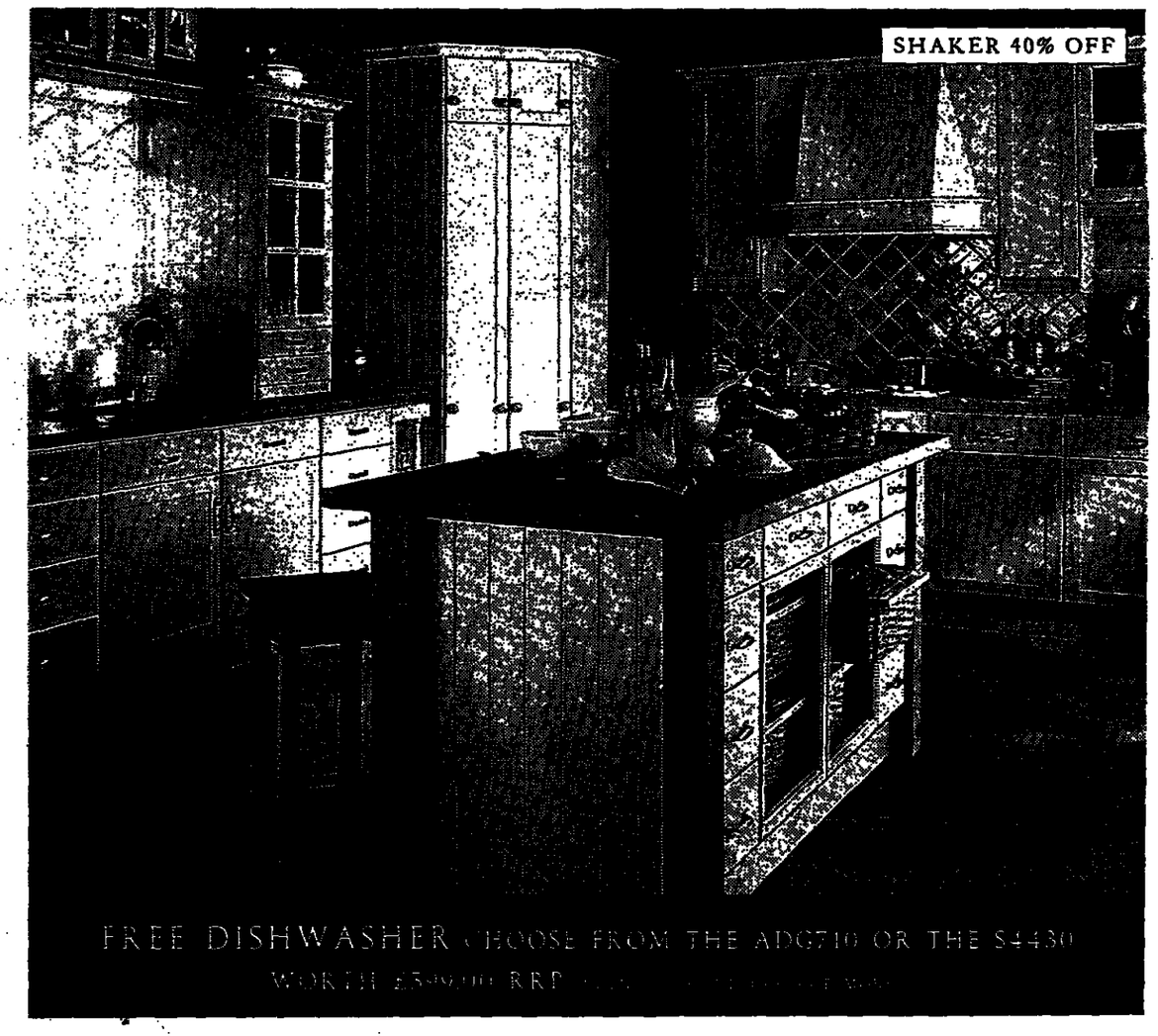
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TT15

NIGEL HAWKES AT THE GEOGRAPHERS' CONFERENCE

How commuters kept their homing instinct

After a century of travelling to work, British workers still like to say 'I'll be home in half an hour, dear'

HE started by walking and cycling, and progressed to the bus, the train, and the car, but a century of commuting has not changed a basic human instinct in the average British male. He still hates to work more than half an hour's travel from home.

Analysis of work journeys has shown that, despite the ever-increasing distances of travel made possible by changes in transport, the time spent travelling has hardly changed. The average journey time in the 1920s was 30 minutes. Today it is 34.

"When we look back at the past century, we tend to emphasise the changes that have taken place, and there have been massive changes," said Professor Colin Pooley of the University of Lancaster. "But when you look in detail at the decisions people make about commuting, and how much of the day they are prepared to devote to it, there is an awful lot of stability. Over a century, there has been a four-fold increase in the distance travelled, but time spent doing it has increased by only a third since the 1890s, and most of that increase was in the first 20 years."

The distances covered by working women have usually been shorter, but they have generally used slower forms of transport and their journeys have been more likely to be complicated by the requirements of shopping and making sure the children get to school.

In the period from 1890 to 1919, more than 40 per cent of men and nearly 50 per cent of women walked to work. The bicycle and the tram were also important, each accounting for 13.6 per cent of journeys, while 16 per cent were by train. In London, which has always been exceptional, train and Tube were dominant, responsible for 55 per cent of journeys.

In the 1890s, the average journey time was 19 minutes. By 1919, it was 27.8 minutes. The age of the bicycle stretched from 1920 to the end of the 1950s, when a fifth of all journeys to work by men were by bicycle. In the period since 1960, it has fallen to only 6 per cent.

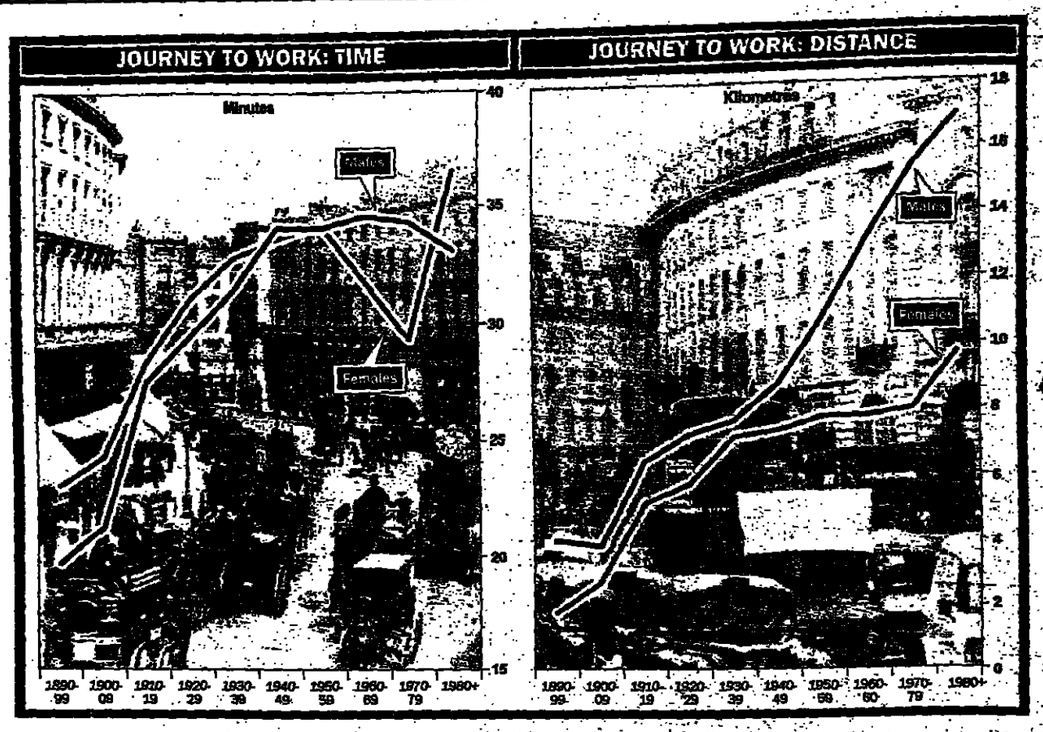
Cars were used by only 1 per cent of men from 1890 to 1919, but today account for about 60 per cent of journeys. Today, inner London is the only area in Britain where the car is not the dominant form of transport.

In the 1920s, 27 per cent of women were walking, against 20 per cent of men. In the 1940s, cars were used by 16 per cent of men but 4 per cent of women. Professor Pooley told the conference: "Women have always used slower forms of transport, such as the bus. That is partly for economic reasons, and partly because women's journeys were always more complicated than men's. They had to fit in taking the children to school, and doing the shopping."

Gathering data about commuting is not straightforward. Professor Pooley and Dr Jean Turnbull have gathered life histories from 1,800 people, discovering how they travelled at each stage of their lives. For the earliest period, descendants provided recollections.

London commuters have fared worst. Before 1920, commuting times in London were only 7.6 minutes greater than in small towns. By 1939, this had widened to 21 minutes, and by the 1960s it was 25.6 minutes — more than twice as long as the journeys in small towns. London commuters have always travelled further, but in the early period they had the advantage of efficient trains and tubes. Since then, travel in other places has speeded up, but not in London.

Professor Pooley says that he can see very little evidence of the trend reversing, or people being wooed from their cars: "All the evidence suggests that when people get a car, especially a company car, they are very reluctant to give it up for public transport."



Jams spread by City's bread and butter jobs

■ Slow, congested and expensive: travel to the office in Victorian times followed a route only too familiar to modern commuters, writes Alan Hamilton

TRAVELLING to work was as tiresome a century ago as it is today. In 1898, City gents from the South Coast regularly complained that it took them as long to get from London Bridge station to the Square Mile as it did from Brighton to London Bridge.

Central streets were clogged with hansom cabs and horse buses and the average speed through the heart of the capital was — and remains — 11mph.

Traffic congestion is even older. When George Shillibeer began the first bus service in London in 1829, he was forbidden to operate his horse omnibuses in the central area. The Government decreed that this should be the exclusive preserve of licensed hansom cabs — forerunners of the black taxi — because the authorities could then control the amount of traffic.

In 1898, the present surface railway system was almost entirely in place, but it carried only an estimated 500,000 commuters a day from the outskirts to city-centre jobs, compared with today's two million.

Modern travellers will find it hard to believe that some things have got better. In 1898, a journey on the Metropolitan Railway from Rickmansworth to Baker Street took 45 minutes; today it is pared down to a space-age 36 minutes. But it was never cheap. A century ago an annual season ticket for that journey cost a hefty £14; today it is an equally stinging £1,420. A single was 1s 10d (9p); now it is £3.50.

Then, as now, commuters faced their worst problems after they had arrived at their mainline terminus. Road transport was limited to the hansom cab or horse bus. The only Underground railways were the Metropolitan, the District, the City and South London and the Waterloo and City. Pressure of road traffic helped to encourage the building of the Central, Piccadilly and Bakerloo lines and, now, the Jubilee extension. In 1898 the Waterloo and City Underground, known to its regulars as "The Drain", opened. It was built by the London and South Western Railway, owners of Waterloo, in the belief that, if City drudges could get from station to desk with relative ease, more would be persuaded to live in the depths of Surrey and become lucrative season-ticket buyers.

Railway companies are largely guilty of creating the purgatory of commuting. The Metropolitan Line, beloved of the poet John Betjeman, built houses along its line out to Buckinghamshire, selling them to inner-city dwellers in search of country air.

Mark Dennison, curator of the London Transport Museum, believes the pattern of commuting has not greatly changed in a century. "Some people today travel great distances to work, but in 1898 there was extensive commuting from within a 60-mile radius of central London. The same still applies."

At least commuting is now largely classless, with all manner of citizenry suffering alike. In 1898 the labouring classes travelled at crack of dawn on workmen's trains for pennies, while the white-collared brigade would come up to town as late as 10am on trains that were often exclusively first class.

It is exactly a century ago that London first tried to speed up public transport in the centre by introducing the motorbus. The experiment was a disaster; the buses kept breaking down, were no faster than the horse-drawn version, and were abandoned after a matter of months.

Trams, trolleybuses and buses with conductors came and went in the intervening decades. The one-man-operated bus, which blocks streets as the driver counts fares, issues tickets and explains to passengers why their passes are invalid, is still with us. There is still a lot to be said for the horse.



Railway companies built houses in the country to tempt city workers to become commuters

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CHANGING TIMES

عكس من الإصل

Patients face fines for cheating over free prescriptions

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE caught dishonestly trying to avoid prescription charges are to be fined £25, it was announced yesterday. The move to make evasion of charges a criminal offence is one of 100 measures to tackle prescription fraud, estimated to cost the National Health Service a quarter of its potential income from this source.

A freephone line now in operation (0800-068 6161) and an Internet website will enable suspected scams to be reported anonymously while the increased use of electronic data checking will assist investigators. Alan Milburn, the Health Minister, said that although the vast majority of fraud was on a small scale, evidence was emerging of organised fraud. "The amount of money being taken dishonestly would be enough to carry out 22,000 hip replacements. It is appalling that patients are suffering because some people are taking advantage of the system."

To counter theft and forgery of prescriptions, which account for an estimated loss of £15 million a year, serial-numbered forms are being printed on pastel-coloured paper, rather like cheques, to make them difficult to photocopy. The forms, which should be available in April, will carry the patient's date of birth, to stop people falsely claiming exemption from charges on grounds of age. Fraudulent claims of this sort cost an estimated £90 million a year.

From April, chemists will be able to ask patients claiming exemption for proof that they are eligible. If they cannot provide the evidence they will still be given the prescription free of charge, but the form will be marked for checking by the Prescription Pricing Authority's fraud investigation unit in Newcastle upon Tyne, which is sent all prescriptions issued.

At present a random sample of about 100,000 are checked each year. This has revealed that 4 per cent of exemption claims are false, but the new system is expected to disclose a higher rate. Those making a false claim will be sent a letter requiring them to pay the charge and a fixed penalty, expected to be £25. Refusal to pay would lead to a summons.

Because those who are exempt are in categories more prone to illness, they account for 85 per cent of prescriptions. The current NHS spending review is considering reducing the numbers exempt; wealthier pensioners, for example, might be asked to pay at least part of the charge.

Sharp practice by doctors and pharmacists is thought to cost £10 million a year. Doctors who own pharmacies will have to declare an interest.



Pilots of Fighter Command race to their aircraft during the Battle of Britain. They frequently took off and landed while being bombed

Key Battle of Britain base to be sold

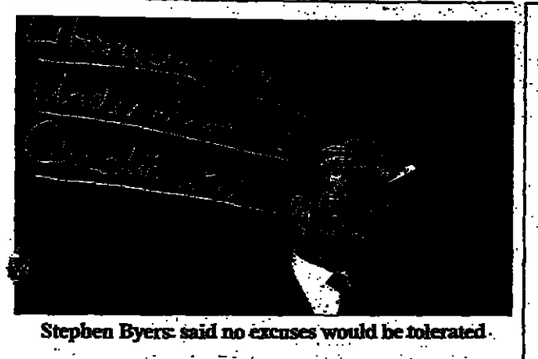
BY PETER BURKETT

RAF MANSTON, the air station that bore the brunt of enemy attacks in the Second World War, and the only one to be bombed into temporary closure during the Battle of Britain, has been declared surplus to Government requirements and is to be sold.

The final chapter in the remarkable history of the Kent airfield, known to RAF pilots and ground crews as "Manston in the dust", will be written next week when Weatherall Green and Smith, the London property agents, place it on the open market.

The asking price has not been disclosed, but the Ministry of Defence is believed to be seeking offers of several million pounds for the 715 acre aerodrome near Ramsgate, which boasts one of the longest runways in Britain at 3,000 yards.

The end was signalled three years ago when Manston's flight of Sea King search and rescue helicopters was transferred to RAF Wattisham in Suffolk. Since then, the RAF's job there has been to support the MoD fire training school. It is a far cry from the wartime days when Manston was the closest operational airfield to occupied Europe and came under almost constant attack from the marauding Luftwaffe. Then, it was the base for desperate air battles in which the Spitfire and Hurricane pilots took off and landed as the ground around them erupted in craters of white chalk.



Stephen Byers said no excuses would be tolerated

Teach reading traditionally, schools advised

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

LOCAL authorities will face public pressure from ministers to adopt traditional teaching methods if they fail to meet tough new reading targets announced yesterday for every area of England.

Each local authority has agreed its own target for improvement in literacy so that 80 per cent of 11-year-olds reach their expected reading level by 2002. Some will have to almost double the proportion meeting the standard.

Schools in Nottingham, where only 36 per cent of 11-year-olds reached level 4 of the national curriculum in English in 1996, will be expected to make the biggest improvement. By 2002, the rate should rise to 72 per cent.

Six authorities — Bromley, Bury, Rutland, Solihull, Surrey and Wokingham — have been set the highest target: 90 per cent achieving their expected reading age. Ministers accept progress will be slower in already high-performing areas.

Stephen Byers, the School Standards Minister, said the Government would not prescribe methods of teaching reading, but schools would be encouraged to follow official guidance, which stresses the use of phonics and whole-class teaching.

Mr Byers told the North of England Education Conference in Bradford that no excuses for failure would be accepted. Progress towards the targets would be monitored closely and the Government would not shrink from intervening, as it had in Hackney, east London, where it appointed an improvement team.

Mr Byers said after his speech: "If an authority is falling behind, it may be using methods that are not successful, and we will be putting pressure on its schools to adopt different methods which will raise levels of literacy."

The National Literacy Project, which is being piloted in primary schools, emphasises whole-class teaching and the use of phonics.

The targets have been negotiated by civil servants over recent months, with each authority allowed to set a figure within a range of five percentage points. Mr Byers said some had to be cajoled into agreement, but others set even more ambitious targets than the Government required.

The proportion of children whose first language was not English was the only constraint accepted. Mr Byers acknowledged that educational achievement usually mirrored levels of poverty. But he added: "There is clear evidence that some schools in depressed areas are already reaching above the national average. If they can improve, all schools can improve."

HEAD TEACHERS

A severe shortage of able head teachers was forecast yesterday after an unprecedented one in ten schools advertised vacancies last year. Church schools have the greatest problems recruiting heads, with half of Roman Catholic schools and a quarter of Church of England schools forced to re-advertise. There were 389 vacancies for secondary heads and 2,022 for primary heads. John Howson, of Education Data Surveys, said the system would be strained to produce "sufficient able and qualified leaders".



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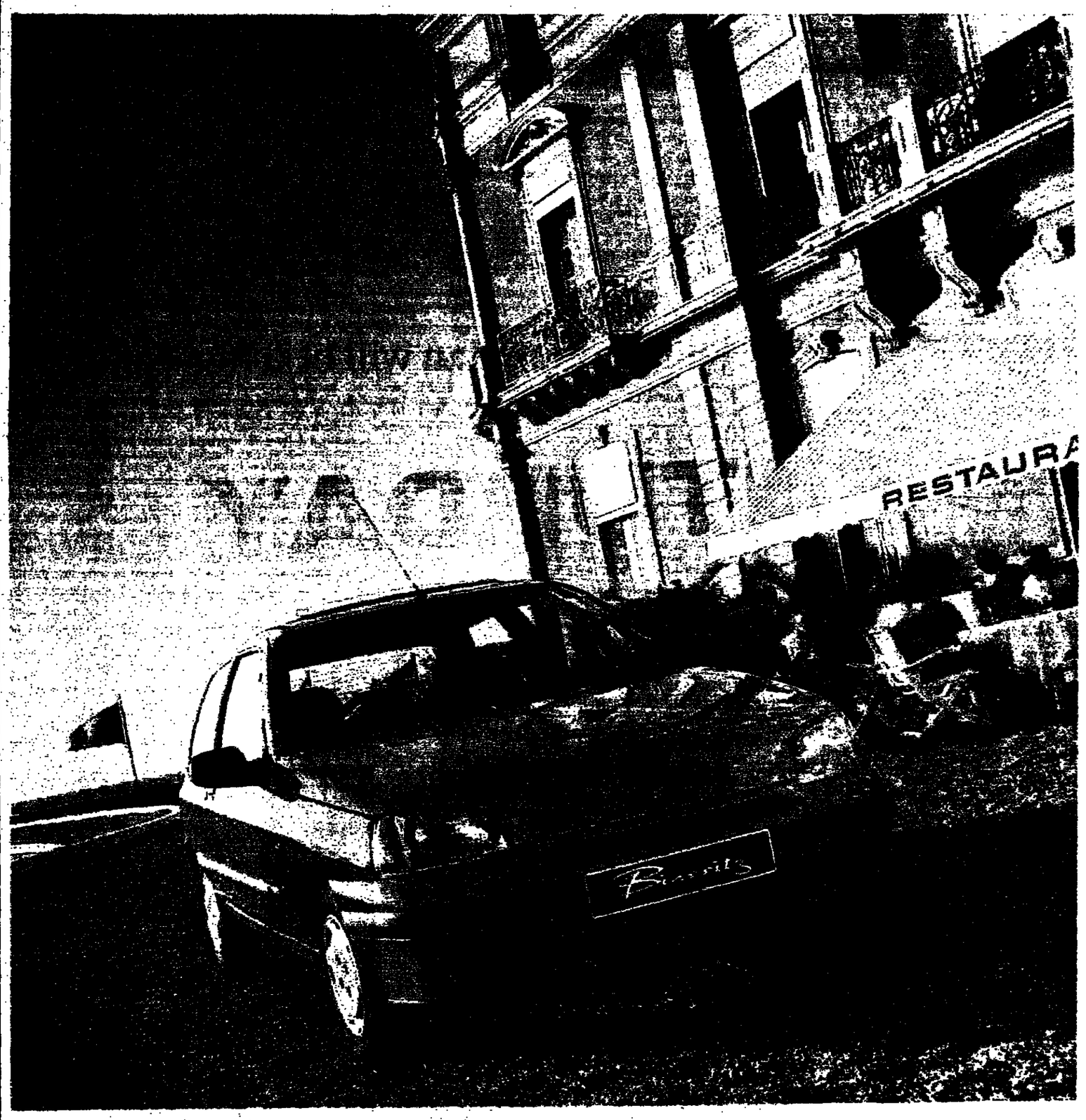
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Murder of Pope's aide in 'erotic game' raises fears of gay serial killer

BY RICHARD OWEN

THE murder of an Italian aristocratic homosexual with close links to the Pope has strengthened fears that a gay serial killer is on the loose in Rome.

Police said the killing of Enrico Sini Luzi, 67, a member of the papal household, was the twenty-fourth gay murder in seven years.

The murders follow a pattern in which victims are usually found naked or near-naked and have been bludgeoned to death with a heavy object, apparently by someone who had their confidence.

Signor Sini Luzi was found in the drawing room of his elegant ground-floor flat in the Prati district near the Vatican. His head had been smashed in with an antique brass candelabra, and he was lying face down on a velvet cushion. He had also been strangled with a red cashmere scarf, and was wearing only underwear and black socks. Police said he had been killed on Sunday evening during a Juventus-Inter Milan football match, when the noise from television sets would have masked any struggle.

The case, which has caused shock and dismay in the Vatican, recalls that of Count Alvise di Robilant, the 72-year-old art expert and former Sotheby's representative who was found bludgeoned to death with a paperweight at his flat in a Renaissance palazzo in Florence a year ago. Since Count di Robilant was a lady's man noted for his charm, police at first suspected a jealous husband or jilted mistress. But they have since said they are following a "homosexual lead", on the ground that the count may have been bisexual.

Police said Signor Sini Luzi had been found with sticking plaster on his wrists and throat, suggesting he had been taking part in "some kind of erotic sado-masochistic game". A pornographic film was found in his video recorder.

Signor Sini Luzi came from a prominent and wealthy family which owns large tracts of land near Viterbo, north of Rome, and was a Knight of the Order of Malta. For the past eight years he had held the ancient title of Gentleman of the Papal Antechamber, or Secret Chamberlain, a ceremonial post which brought him close to the pontiff. He accompanied the Pope on his travels and escorted high-level delegations to meet him.

Signor Sini Luzi lived alone with a dog called Anubis, after the Egyptian God of the Underworld, surrounded by photographs of himself with the Pope.

Colonel Andrea La Forgia, who is in charge of the investigation, said there were no signs of forced entry, suggesting that Signor Sini Luzi knew his killer. "We think they had dinner together, and then played an erotic game which ended in a violent argument," he said.

Three framed silver medals were taken from the highly prized collection of honours he had assembled during his Vatican service, but quantities of jewels, silver and paintings were left untouched.

The last reported "gay murder" in Rome was that of Louis Inturrisi, 56, an American lecturer and writer found dead last August.

Italy vows to clamp down on refugees

BY RICHARD OWEN IN ROME AND ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

ITALY, bowing to pressure from Germany, yesterday assured Bonn that it was not "the soft underbelly of Europe" and would take stricter measures to control the influx of Kurdish refugees from Turkey and Iraq.

But a meeting in Rome today of European police chiefs is expected to hear demands for a tougher clampdown, with Turkey arguing that Italy's "open door" policy encourages both would-be migrants and the mafia criminals who exploit them.

Professor Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, who is visiting India, said he had told Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, by telephone that in future Italy would consider requests for asylum "on a strictly individual basis" rather than collectively. He said both he and Herr Kohl attached "the greatest importance" to today's meeting of chiefs of police from Italy, Turkey, Greece, France, Germany and The Netherlands. He described his conversation with the German leader as "long, cordial and constructive".

Italian officials insist that asylum is not granted automatically and say as many as 50,000 illegal immigrants were served with expulsion orders last year. But they admit that immigrants are allowed to stay for at least two weeks even if it is clear they have no grounds for requesting asylum, and that many give the authorities the slip.

Turkey has done little to allay Western European fears that it is unwilling to control a flood of illegal immigrants after a court in Thrace yesterday released 166 people, mainly Iraqis, apprehended while trying to smuggle themselves into Greece.

Necati Bilican, the country's top policeman, disputed the assertion that Turkey was deliberately sitting on its hands in the current crisis by revealing that his force arrested 18,000 illegal migrants in 1996 and another 20,000 last year.

Mr Bilican was speaking in Istanbul on his way to a meeting of Interpol in Rome to discuss ways of stopping the tide of both Kurds fleeing Turkey and migrants from other countries using Turkey as a transit point to the West.

The Italians are clearly stung by the accusation that they are the weak link in the Schengen agreement on the abolition of border controls within Europe. Rome is trapped between its commitment under Schengen — which it joined last October — to step up control of non-EU migrants as borders come down, and its "open arms" policy towards persecuted minorities in the region.

Turkish officials maintain that Italy has brought the problem upon itself by romanticising as champions of human rights the traffickers of immigrants in search of a better life. The flight of Iraqi Kurds in particular is the result not of Turkish policy but the Western economic embargo since the Gulf War, Turks argue.

The crisis arose at the turn of the year when 1,200 mainly Kurdish immigrants arrived in southern Italian ports. Italian coastguards were yesterday on the alert for more refugees said to be heading for Italy in unseaworthy boats controlled by Turkish mafiosi who charge up to £3,000 a head to smuggle Kurdish, Asian and other refugees to Italy. Last weekend Bonn raised the alarm pointing out that many of the refugees merely passed through Italy on their way to Germany and The Netherlands or Sweden.

This week France reinforced patrols along its border with Italy, noting that nearly 4,500 Kurds had crossed into French territory illegally last year, ten times the number of the year before.

Signor Prodi said Italy had a clear responsibility "for what happened on our coasts". But he insisted that many of the refugees were victims of "real rather than fictitious oppression".



PAOLO COCCO / REUTERS

Kurdish immigrants, among 25 who swam ashore from a boat at Frassanito in southern Italy, are led away by Italian police yesterday

French jobless revolt spreads

BY BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THOUSANDS of people demonstrated in France yesterday in the first street protest staged by an increasingly militant movement against unemployment, putting fresh pressure on the Government to respond to its demands.

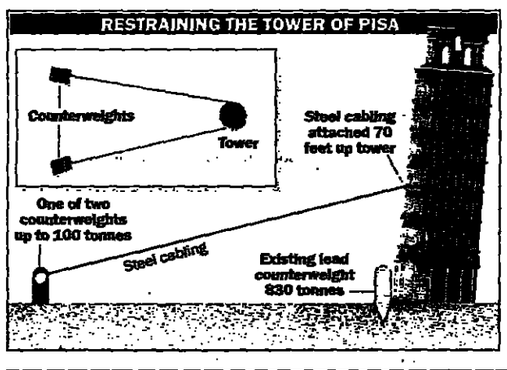
About 4,000 people marched through Paris to the Finance Ministry and about 3,000 unemployed paraded through Marseilles, a hotbed of the protest movement, and rallies of several hundred people each were reported in cities across the country.

The issue of unemployment has produced serious splits in the left-wing coalition Government, with a widening protest by the unemployed and an open rift over whether to call a referendum on European Union reforms.

The Socialists swept to power last summer promising to alleviate the plight of the three million unemployed, but the Cabinet of Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, has become divided over how to react to a swelling grass-roots protest.

Unemployed demonstrators demanding additional aid are staging sit-ins at 23 social services centres across the country. A further 26 welfare offices have been shut to prevent their occupation by protesters, who are demanding a Christmas bonus of Fr3,000 (£300). Police have ejected unemployed demonstrators from two offices, but the "jobless revolt", as it has become known in the media, is growing by the day.

M Jospin has declined to comment on the protest on Cabinet divisions, prompting accusations that, after gliding through its first six months in office virtually unscathed, the Socialist-led Government is beginning to flounder.



Pisa tower plan will be a move in right direction

BY RICHARD OWEN

A PLAN to save the Leaning Tower of Pisa from collapse with high-tension steel cables has been approved.

Professor Michele Jamiolkowski, chairman of the Committee for Protection of the Leaning Tower, said that, although the tilt had slowed recently thanks to lead placed at the base, the committee had decided to take "decisive steps" to stabilise the tower, which has shifted by a millimetre (0.039in) a year for the past 25 years.

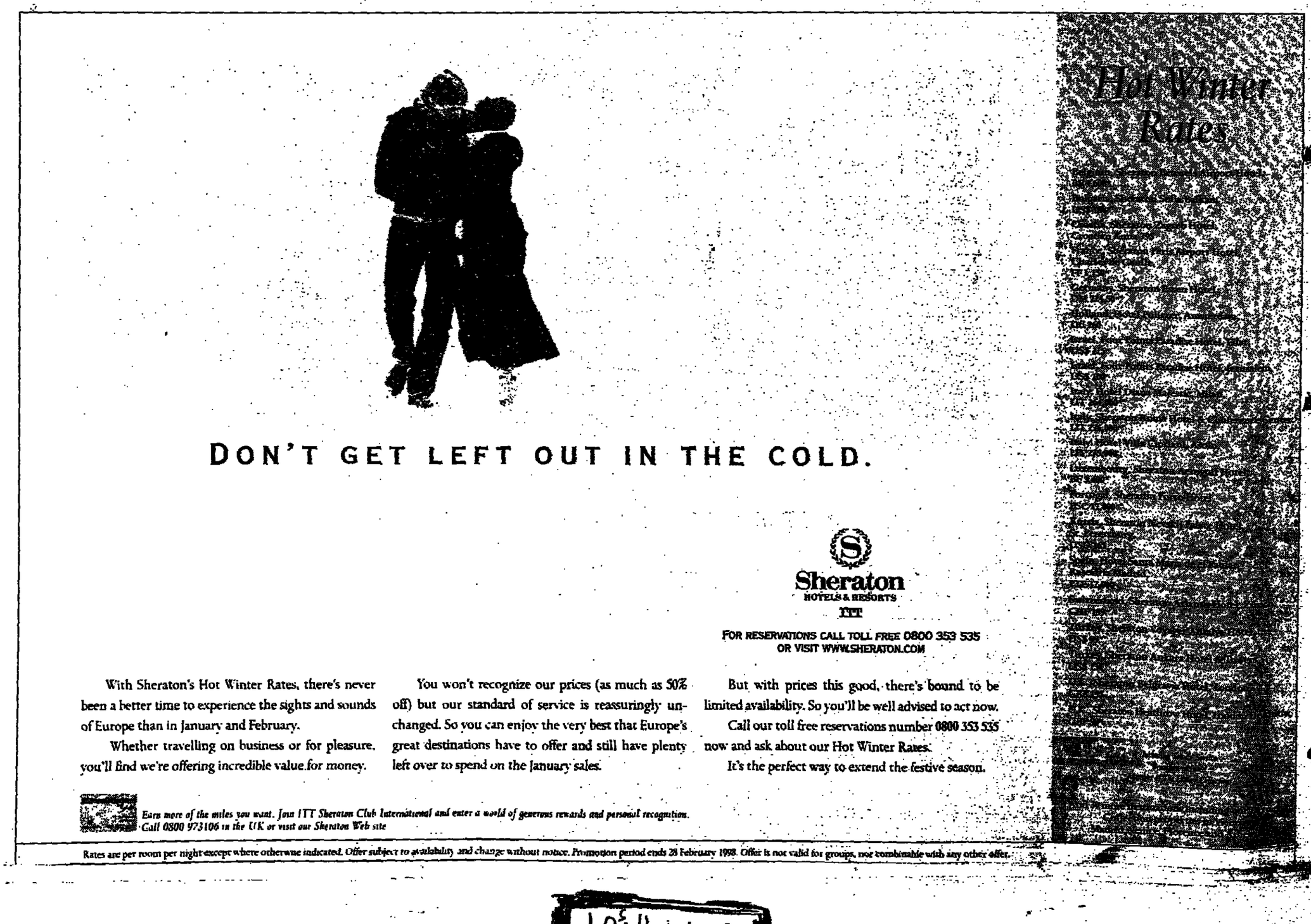
Professor Jamiolkowski said the cables would be in place by July. He said they would be covered in plastic and secured to the tower at a height of 70ft, correcting the lean by pulling in the opposite direction.

The eight-storey, 180ft-high tower — properly speaking, the campanile of the adjoining 11th-century cathedral — is built on saturated soil of sand and lime. It began to subside almost from the moment construction began in 1174. It was completed in 1350 and at the end of the 16th century Galileo is said to have dropped cannon balls from the top to demonstrate the theory of gravity.

Over the centuries the tower has continued to lean, reaching 18ft from the vertical. Seven years ago it started to tilt at a faster rate, and steel bands were placed round the base, with weights to prevent a further sudden shift. Visitors were banned from climbing it and it is surrounded by safety barriers.

Professor Jamiolkowski said he hoped the tower would be reopened in time for the millennium. If the cables succeed in correcting the tilt, engineers will remove earth from the foundations in an attempt to straighten the tower slightly, and then anchor it with ten steel plates.

Last year a group of British engineers suggested that since the water running under the tower flows north to south, water could be pumped from south to north in an attempt to force the monument back into an upright position. The proposal has not been taken up.



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Eurocrats lose luxury cars to hijack gunmen

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRUSSELS is not usually rated a dangerous diplomatic posting, but a spate of armed carjackings has added a new risk to the lives of ambassadors and senior Eurocrats in the Belgian capital. Well-organised gangs with suspected East European connections are thought to be behind the thefts, which include the cars of at least two ambassadors and one European Union Commissioner.

The diplomatic carjackings, involving the vehicles of the German ambassador to Nato, the chief Palestinian representative, and Padraig Flynn, the Social Affairs Commissioner, are among more than 100 violent attacks to steal luxury cars in and around Brussels since September, the city's police confirmed yesterday.

While embassies and other targets are reluctant to confirm incidents, the crime wave is stirring fears on the diplomatic circuit, the business world and among well-off Belgians. A special police task force has so far failed to track the criminals and drivers of luxury cars are being warned to take precautions.

The first known ambassadorial target was Hermann von Richthofen, the Nato ambassador and former London envoy. In an incident that came to light this week, armed men stopped his new Mercedes on October 2 as it was pulling out of his residence on the edge of the Bois de la Cambre. In an unusual defeat, the gunmen were forced to flee, apparently by security men. German officials declined yesterday to say whether the ambassador, grandson of the legendary Red Baron, was in the car.

Last month the attackers got away with the new BMW of Chawki Armali, the Palestinian envoy to the EU, who was at the wheel with an Arab ambassador as a passenger. "Two men came up. One of them, armed with a baseball bat, shouted 'Get out or I'll demolish you'," Mr Armali said. "I first thought it was a political attack and I wanted to drive off fast, but the road was blocked by a van. The attacker then opened the door, threw me on the ground and took my place at the wheel." The car disappeared.

Also last month, Mr Flynn's brand new S-class Mercedes was removed from his driver's hands at gunpoint a week after the £100,000 car was delivered.



Flynn: had his £100,000 Mercedes only a week

Another eminent Euro victim was Horst Reichenbach, director-general at the Commission for Consumer Affairs. Armed thieves came to his house and demanded the keys of his new car last month.

Police say diplomats and Eurocrats are not being singled out because the thieves are also targeting Belgian and foreign businessmen and any other owners of top-range Mercedes and BMWs.

In one case, the gunmen seized the Mercedes of Billy Peirens, leader of one of the big Belgian Christian trade unions. In another, also last month, a Belgian woman was forced out of her car and watched as the attackers drove off with her three-year-old daughter in the back. The thieves returned with the girl, then made their getaway.

While carjacking is spreading across Europe, police have been taken aback by the scale, brazenness and organised nature of the Belgian onslaught. They presume the criminals are working to order, identifying new vehicles and spiriting them away to the lucrative market on the other side of the old Iron Curtain.

Most attacks have taken place as drivers leave or return to their homes, or at traffic lights. Only a handful of vehicles have been recovered, one after a shootout on the Brussels-Liège motorway.

Eric van der Sypt, the judge heading the carjacking unit, warned drivers not to resist. "No car is worth a human life," he said. However, the police said people should keep doors locked and try to drive off or attract attention with the horn. Hope is being pinned on a new alarm system that enables victims to immobilise their car by dialling a mobile telephone number.

Meanwhile, dealers of humbler marques in the plush suburbs of Uccle and Ixelles are said to be enjoying unusually good business.

PHILIPPE WOJAZER / REUTERS



O J Simpson 'confession' to killings

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

O. J. SIMPSON has stunned his enemies with a casual remark widely seen as the closest he has come to confessing to the killing of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman.

In his first major print interview in four years, the disgraced Simpson is quoted as saying of the death of Brown Simpson, his ex-wife: "Let's say I committed this crime. Even if I did do this, it would have to have been because I loved her very much, right?"

The remark, in a late-night phone call to *Esquire* magazine, was not meant as a confession, according to the journalist. But it has infuriated Fred Goldman, Ronald's father, who has struggled to recover any of the $33 million (£20 million) in damages awarded against Simpson in a civil court last year. On Tuesday, Mr Goldman accused the man he calls "the killer" of "laughing at the world".

Simpson has been forced out of his infamous Brentwood estate and now lives with his two children in a leased home not far away in the Pacific Palisades neighbourhood, playing golf six days a week, according to his agent. He routinely declines interview requests but made an exception in the case of a sympathetic forthcoming *Esquire* cover story headlined "O. J. Simpson plots his return to public life".

"He has never come close to confessing that he murdered his ex-wife," the writer, Celia Farber, says in her article. Nevertheless, Simpson's assertion that killing Ms Brown would have meant he loved her comes as an extraordinary attempt to rationalise her murder after years of denials.

The remark came "with no explanation or prompting", writes Ms Farber, who admits it made her "stop breathing for a second". Earlier in the phone call, made from Simpson's home, he had signalled his reflective mood with another oblique reference to the case that now defines his life: "If I'm hurting now, it's not because I've done anything wrong. It's because I miss her." Simpson was acquitted of the double murders in 1995 but found responsible for them in the later civil trial, which so far has proved a moral victory at best for the victims' families. He has now managed to rub salt in their wounds, having found a forum for his startling ruminations.



The *Esquire* cover featuring Simpson

"If I could sit down with Fred Goldman and talk to him, I would say, 'Listen, I would love to get my hands on whoever did this. *Love* to'." Simpson is quoted as saying elsewhere in the interview, even though his promise on his acquittal to launch his own investigation into the murders has not been kept.

Mr Goldman's response was blunt. "He as much as says that he has committed the crime," he said. "He is laughing at the world, and certainly, in his mind, I think he believes that what he has done is perfectly acceptable."

There are signs that despite the opprobrium heaped on Simpson by his mainly white enemies he may indeed win back some of his following. The *Los Angeles Times* recently published a scornful review of a trial memoire by Dominick Dunne, one of Simpson's bitterest foes, and next month's *Esquire* story is likely to be followed by similar ones using promises of a favourable tone to win access to the ex-athlete.

Drugs boom in Russia

Moscow: Russia saw a big jump in drug-related crime last year, and consumption of hard narcotics is growing fast, Anatoli Kulikov, the Interior Minister, said.

"The number of drug-related crimes almost doubled last year, rising by 95 per cent," Mr Kulikov told an anti-drug commission in remarks broadcast on Russian Public Television. He said his Ministry's latest data showed some two million Russians regularly used drugs and a quarter of a million more were registered addicts — a threefold increase since 1992. Russia's total population is close to 150 million.

Last year the Interior Ministry put the value of Russia's illegal drugs trade at about £4.3 billion, 650 times greater than in 1991. *(Reuters)*

Liberty loses her head to Japanese

The Statue of Liberty in Paris temporarily loses its head yesterday as preparations are made for shipping it from its island home in the Seine to Tokyo. The statue, which is a smaller version of the celebrated landmark in New York Harbour, will be paying a nine-month visit to Japan, French officials said.

Workmen are dismantling the 37ft, 19-tonne statue which faces a month-long voyage to Japan. The move is meant as a symbolic gesture of Franco-Japanese friendship, officials said. The statue, whose official name is "Liberty lighting up the world", was given to Paris by a private American organisation in commemoration of the centenary of the French Revolution. It was the work of the French sculptor, Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi, the creator of the original Statue of Liberty given earlier to New York as a gift by France.

The French-owned version has stood on the Île des Cygnes (island of swans) in the River Seine in central Paris since 1889. It will go on display in Tokyo Bay from April and will remain there until January 1999, at which time it will again be dismantled for its return to the French capital. *(Reuters)*

Churchill's watering hole in the soup

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

FOUQUET'S, the most famous restaurant in Paris and former watering hole of Winston Churchill, is to be investigated for possible misappropriation of funds, it was announced yesterday.

Founded in 1901 by Louis Fouquet, "the most beautiful *café terrace* in the world", on the corner of the Champs Elysées and the avenue George V, has been the subject of scandal since 1992 when Charles Casanova bought the establishment from his father, Maurice, with the aid of a Fr115 million (£11.5 million) bank loan. M Casanova was eventually forced into voluntary liquidation and now owes his bank, UIC, Fr 300 million.

After the liquidation, a preliminary judicial inquiry found that Fr11 million was missing from the restaurant's accounts. Investigators also discovered that, in addition to a Fr1.9 million salary, Fouquet's had been paying M Casanova's rent of Fr24,000 for a luxury apartment in the wealthy 16th arrondissement.

Lawyers for M Casanova and UIC, both due to appear at a commercial court soon, declined to comment yesterday.

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Oklahoma bomber escapes execution

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

TERRY NICHOLS, the second man convicted in the Oklahoma City bombing, escaped the death penalty yesterday after a deadlocked jury asked a federal judge to pass sentence.

Found guilty before Christmas of conspiracy and eight counts of involuntary manslaughter in America's deadliest act of terrorism, Nichols had been acquitted of first-degree murder for the bombing, which killed 168 adults and children in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995.

While Timothy McVeigh, 29, his co-defendant, was convicted and unanimously sentenced to death in June last year on murder and conspiracy charges stemming from the attack, the second jury had been unable to pronounce with any unanimity in the case of Nichols, 42.

By Tuesday, the second day of the sentencing phase, it became clear that the jury was tired and listless. A bank clerk on the jury cried while others looked dejected at their inability to reach a conclusion. Relatives and victims of the bombing were visibly shocked. Nichols sat expressionless, but hugged his counsel after the jury left court.

Judge Matsch gave lawyers for both sides until February 9 to file motions regarding the sentencing. He had indicated previously that he would order a penalty of less than life imprisonment if the jurors placed the decision in his hands.

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Koreans sell gold to save economy

Self-sacrifice may do little to ease the pain of the mauled "tigers", reports James Pringle

SOUTH KOREANS crowded into banks yesterday to hand in gold rings, necklaces and trophies in a desperate attempt to bail their country out of its economic tailspin. By last night, 100,000 people had given more than 17 tonnes of gold — enough to lower its price on world markets but probably too little to restore the health of their once-proud multinationals.

"I came to save the Korean economy," said one woman, passing over gold jewellery. "After all, this is just for decoration." The effect of the people's gesture was minimal in practical terms, said one analyst, but "it may make people feel better psychologically".

The financial storm continued unabated across East Asia yesterday, currencies and stock markets plummeting and bringing fears of the kind of meltdown that is the stuff of nightmares — including mass unemployment and the likelihood of social unrest.

After six months of currency and stock market turmoil, the area has passed the first three trading days of 1998 with the currencies of Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines plumbing new depths — all reached historic lows yesterday. One dealer called the latest currency and stock market fall a "nasty meltdown". One analyst said: "With everyone buying dollars to pay off short-term debts, there is no demand for Asian currencies."

Yet bankers say that, with much painful readjustment still to take place, the real decisions have yet to be made — and the real hurt to be felt. Nearly 2.5 million "guest workers" around the region, mostly in Malaysia and Thailand, are likely to be sent home to countries already impoverished, such as Bangladesh, or which are suffering from the current downturn, such as Indonesia. That will only add to the sense of regional crisis.

For its part, Malaysia is threatening to send home half of its two million foreign workers, an indication that it does not expect to see an economic recovery soon, diplomats note. Police officials are said to be worried about the possible effects of thousands of unemployed foreign workers roaming the streets.

The stock market in Hong Kong, which has also been grappling with the threat of avian flu and a dramatic tourist downturn since Britain handed over the territory to China on July 1, fell 6 per cent yesterday to 9,538 points, dropping below the psychologically important 10,000 mark.

The Taiwanese dollar, which has been relatively stable, was brought to a ten-year low. In Indonesia, where market traders in Bandung rioted on Monday against ethnic Chinese shops, President Suharto, 76, said this week as he unveiled budget proposals: "We are passing through very hard and difficult times." In making his comment, the increasingly enfeebled Mr Suharto might have been speaking for the whole region. In South Korea, the incoming Government of President-elect Kim Dae Jung, a pro-union political liberal, vowed to make it easier for companies to dismiss employees, even as workers of big conglomerates threatened to strike in protest. There is a stigma in South Korea attached to anyone taking a holiday abroad, or even buying foreign luxury products. Anti-foreign sentiment is on the rise, and 270,000 guest workers may be sent home. "We are at a crossroads," said Mr Kim. "We can either take a leap or fall, depending on reforms of conglomerates and labour laws."



"Plummeting stock markets bring fears of a meltdown that is the stuff of nightmares"

Thais, under a self-help scheme aptly called "Thais help Thais", are also handing over jewellery in exchange for bonds.

Even Singapore is hurting, with falls in its currency and a near-shambles in the clone industrial city it has been building outside Suzhou in China — a city that was supposed to embody the kind of "Asian values" that had seemed so successful.

Some of the failings have been put at the door of crony capitalism, generally stemming from the too-cosy relationship between government and business that holds true across the region, including Japan with its stagnating economy, and even China. Yet throughout Asia, many politicians, businessmen, economic analysts and local journalists seem still to be in denial about the suspension of what was expected to be an "Asia-Pacific century".

Asia's more-backward countries — notably Burma, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos — are beginning to suffer hardship. Diplomats say that drug-smuggling and illegal logging are likely to increase as funds dry up.

In China itself, 1998 is likely to be unpredictable at best, but could prove difficult. At its congress last year, the Communist Party said it would start selling off its tens of thousands of loss-making state-run enterprises, a scheme that could add to instability by making tens of millions more Chinese unemployed.

There is already much grumbling among workers in Beijing but especially from the northeast, where the name of the late free-market reformist leader, Deng Xiaoping, is anathema, to his native western province, Sichuan, where there have been demonstrations over lost jobs and price rises.

Beijing has suddenly become vulnerable to declining foreign investment and increased competition from its neighbours, for whom devalued currencies should mean cheaper exports.

The Chinese Year of the Tiger, celebrated at the end of this month and traditionally supposed to bring prosperity, will be a year when "tiger" economies will have to face the reality of the marketplace. "A rebound any time soon is elusive at best," said an analyst last night. "The economic health of the whole region is under threat. The era of sky-high growth is over, at least for 1998 and possibly much longer."

PAUL BARKER / REUTERS



Gold possessions of a South Korean woman are weighed at a Seoul bank before being sold

WORLD SUMMARY

$1m drug haul for US paper

Miami: A journalist who opened two heavy cartons mailed to *The Miami Herald* newspaper said she thought they contained books. She found instead packages of cocaine and heroin believed to be worth $1 million (£625,000).

The 53lb of drugs were posted to the paper, but not addressed to anyone in particular, from Colombia. Drug agents followed the package to the *Herald* to see who would claim it. The journalist was not considered a suspect. *(AP)*

German protest over tax snoopers

Bonn: German finance officials provoked howls of protest when they suggested offering cash rewards to people who inform on big-time tax evaders. The Federation of German Taxpayers said offering such bounties would revive the denunciation culture exploited by the Nazi Gestapo and East German Stasi secret police forces. *(Reuters)*

Palestinians call for torture ban

Jerusalem: In a landmark case, Palestinian detainees asked the Supreme Court to bar Israeli interrogators from depriving them of sleep, covering their heads with sacks and tying them up in painful positions — all methods Shin Bet has acknowledged using. It was not clear when the court would rule. *(AP)*

Women rebel at virginity test

Istanbul: Women's groups urged the resignation of Islay Saygin, the Turkish Minister of State for Women's Affairs, for describing virginity tests on young women — a practice that has driven some girls to suicide — as a "necessity". The practice is widespread in university dormitories, even though not legal. *(AFP)*

Nigerian plane returns fire

Freetown: Troops loyal to Sierra Leone's military rulers opened fire on a Nigerian warplane. Witnesses said the jet returned fire. "The jet flew suspiciously over Freetown as if it wanted to drop bombs on the city. That was a violation of the ceasefire," said Major John Milton, a military spokesman. *(Reuters)*

Bonn payout for brief encounter

Bonn: German conscripts who consider standard army underwear not sexy enough are to be offered one-off payments of about £15 to purchase briefs of their own choosing, the Defence Ministry said. Recruits often leave unused the staid, starch-white set of briefs issued to them automatically. *(Reuters)*



Dolphins die in 'mass suicide'

RESCUERS struggled in vain yesterday to save more than 100 dolphins washed up on a sandy beach on Isla la Tortuga, an uninhabited Caribbean island northeast of Caracas, the Venezuelan capital (Gabriella Gamini writes).

Despite attempts to drag the creatures back to sea, most of the dolphins swam back to shore and stopped breathing as they lay sprawled on the sand, leading biologists to conclude that the deaths could have been a case of mass suicide.

Rescuers dragged 104 carcasses off the beach and said that only 70 dolphins returned to deep waters.

"Dolphins have strong social instincts; if one is sick or in trouble then the others have a tendency to sacrifice themselves in sympathy," said Jaime Bolanos, a marine biologists who was among the rescuers.

Another theory is that there may have been a particularly strong current that drove the dolphins onshore.

Turks defy Muslim world to join Israeli-US navy exercise

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

WARSHIPS from Israel, Turkey and the United States, observed by an admiral from Jordan, yesterday staged an unprecedented naval exercise that caused apprehension through Iran and much of the Arab world.

Official claims that the 12-hour exercise, dubbed Reliant Mermaid, was designed simply to practise search-and-rescue operations in the eastern Mediterranean were dismissed as disingenuous by Arab and Muslim governments, who foresee the emergence of an ominous new strategic alliance.

State-run papers in Syria, which is sandwiched between Turkey to the north and Israel to the south, described the manoeuvres involving five naval vessels, 1,000 sailors, and naval reconnaissance aircraft and helicopters, as a "menacing threat" carried out by a "sinister alliance".

President Saddam Hussein's beleaguered regime in Iraq made an open threat to the participating nations, declaring through an editorial in the Baghdad paper *Babel* that the country still had the military might to "instill horror in the hearts" of mainly Muslim Turkey, Israel and the US.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted its Foreign Ministry spokesman as claiming that the exercise conducted on the high seas between Cyprus and Israel was designed to help the Jewish state to increase its influence in the region.

Egypt, which unlike Jordan turned down an invitation to act as an official observer on one of the ships that set sail from the Israeli port of Haifa, was equally critical of the exercise.

Writing in the Tel Aviv daily *Yediot Aharonot*, Ron Ben-Yishai, a military analyst, said: "The manoeuvres, which are indeed technical in essence, are a clear signal that the security-related co-operation among Israel, Turkey and America is continually becoming deeper. The armies are progressing from the stage of talk to real co-operation in the field of action."

Turkey's willingness to defy Arab anger and openly strengthen its ties with Israel was important for the troubled Government of Binyamin Netanyahu, the right-wing Israeli Prime Minister.

Ice storm blacks out millions

Ottawa: A storm that hit east Canada and brought down power lines encrusted with ice left two million people in the dark in below-freezing temperatures. After 36 hours of freezing rain, at least two more inches are forecast before the weekend (Richard Cleroux writes).

The storm hit Ottawa, Montreal and most of southern Quebec as well as the Atlantic provinces.

Yesterday there were still 482,000 homes in Montreal without power or heat after eight hydro pylons came down in Drummondville, south of the city.

In Ottawa the Château Laurier hotel was quickly filled after offering rooms to families without electricity at C$40 (£17.60) a night, about four times less than normal.

Algerian terrorists add to death [illegible]

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FURTHER massacres in Algeria's western province of Relizane have cost the lives of 62 civilians and left 48 wounded, according to the state-run radio. Quoting statements by the security services, it said 29 had died on Tuesday night and the remainder 24 hours earlier.

Hundreds of civilians fled the remote mountainous region after a massacre a week ago and the exodus increased after gunmen attacked two more villages at the weekend. The carnage appeared to confirm the fear of most Algerians that the month of Ramadan has become the bloodiest period for civilian deaths in the country's six-year-old civil strife, which started when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

France, which this week urged the Algerian Government to do more to protect its citizens, hurriedly backtracked after Algiers said its former colonial master had "no right to remind the Algerian Government of its duties". With Algiers rejecting all bids for foreign investigation or mediation with Muslim rebels as unacceptable interference, France is reduced to admitting it is short of solutions.

Switzerland will continue repatriating Algerian refugees, whose applications for asylum are refused, but will practise the policy with restraint, the Federal Refugee Office (ODR) said yesterday.

Letters, page 19

Indian ban on professional donors brings national blood shortage

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

PROFESSIONAL blood donors, emaciated and impoverished men and women who wait outside hospitals to sell their blood for a few rupees, have been banned by the Supreme Court — a belated response to the Aids nightmare taking hold in India. The move has created an immediate and critical nationwide blood shortage.

The 500,000 donors have always been regarded as a vital adjunct to official blood banks, which are poorly managed, dirty and unreliable — and invariably short of supplies. There is a particularly acute blood shortage in Delhi because of the ban, and the Government has appealed for would-be donors to come forward urgently.

Given the lax health standards of blood banks, there has been little response from people who are aware of India's Aids time bomb — the result of ignorance coupled with widespread homosexuality, prostitution and drug use. The use of condoms in India is minimal, even in the nation's huge number of illegal brothels, where almost half the prostitutes are estimated to be HIV-positive. Needle hygiene in hospitals and clinics is generally poor.

In Delhi, professional donors accounted for 14 per cent of the blood requirement. They were a constant sight, sitting in the hospital precincts, their faces gaunt and eyes unduly large. The Supreme Court banned professional donors on the ground that their blood was not being properly screened. In fact, it was often not screened at all, except to determine type. Its quality was always poor because of anaemia and other health conditions. Haemoglobin levels were low because of the repeated extraction of blood — often every day.

Harsh Vardhan, the Health Minister, urged Indians to donate blood at least once a year to help to overcome the shortage, and announced the establishment of more blood banks. Donors would be given cards that could be exchanged for free blood for themselves or their relatives.

At least one person has died in hospital in Delhi for want of blood since the ban took effect on New Year's Day. The Indian Red Cross Blood Bank in Delhi, autonomous from the International Committee of the Red Cross, has a reputation for mismanagement, long queues and soiled blood bags. Relatively few donors are willing to subject themselves to the ordeal, or the risk, of giving blood there.

The blood shortage is only one of Delhi's latest headaches. Most of the city's 12 million citizens went without electricity for up to two days this week because of a strike by power workers. Millions consequently went without water because pumps were paralysed. Just as violent protests appeared imminent, the Delhi High Court invoked emergency legislation to order the strikers back to work. The court's intervention was further proof of the collapse of governmental authority. Increasingly, judges are the only decision-makers.

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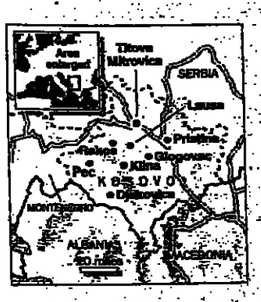
Kosovo gunmen force Serb police to beat retreat

Rebel Albanians inflict humiliation on Milosevic, writes

James Pettifer

in Pristina

ALBANIAN rebels in the central Kosovo hills of southwestern Serbia have scored their first important success against the security apparatus of President Milosevic of Yugoslavia with the withdrawal of hundreds of police. In an area from Titova Mitrovica in the east to Pec, near the Albanian border, police patrols are nowhere to be seen and cannot operate in the countryside because of the threat of attack.



There have been at least 20 deaths in gunfights in the area over the past year between security forces and Albanian rebels. Driving from Pristina through the area this week, there were no police visible during an 80-mile trip. A year ago it was normal to be stopped every few miles.

Kosovo is 90 per cent ethnic Albanian but has been ruled by Serbs under martial law since 1989. In the past year the pacifist Albanian leadership of Ibrahim Rugova, elected in extraordinary ballots last year, has been challenged by more militant politicians and the young fighters of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).

The little towns west of Titova Mitrovica, such as Klina, Lausa and Rakos, have become centres of support for the KLA, and over the past three months there have been regular armed clashes between Albanians and the police. The Serb security apparatus is gradually giving way and only the military can venture into the hills.

In Lausa, guarded by a blue armoured car, the family of Halit Geci, a teacher shot dead by accident in a mêlée several weeks ago, continues to mourn. His cousin, Istref Geci, is pessimistic about the future. "I think more violence will come. There is no political solution to see now, in Belgrade or Pristina," he said. Elections for the Government of the self-styled Kosovo-Albanian Republic are due on March 22, and Dr Rugova is looking increasingly irrelevant and beleaguered amid the deepening crisis.

The uprising in Albania last year produced a seemingly unlimited supply of weapons and ammunition for the KLA. Serb control of the border is breaking down in some places, particularly west of the key town of Djakovica, where Serb and Albanian villagers have been preyed on by paramilitary gangs who seem to be based in Albania.

The KLA is run from Western Europe and people in Lausa have little idea who the leaders are. There is a widespread view, however, that many are veterans of a conflict at Trepca lead mine who escaped from Kosovo in 1990.

The Serb military are well aware of this, and fear sabotage at key Kosovo industrial installations, such as Trepca and the Glogovac ferro-nickel complex and power station. One army officer in Pristina said: "They know what could hurt Belgrade. Individual shootings are not a way to win anything here."

The army base in Titova Mitrovica has tanks and armoured cars at the ready, but it is far from clear what use they will be against such a shadowy enemy.

Mr Milosevic's room for political manoeuvre over Kosovo is limited. The region is central to the Serbian identity and territorial concessions, the only way to defuse growing Albanian nationalism, are not a practical possibility in Serbian politics.

Local Serbs fear a lengthy breakdown of law and order but see little help coming from Belgrade. An obvious danger being aired in the Serb bars of Pristina is that Arkan, the paramilitary leader and alleged war criminal, who comes from Kosovo and has extensive business interests here, may enter the fray.

MAIKE HUTCHINGS / REUTERS



Defiant P. W. Botha is being seen as an Afrikaner martyr and hero

Botha faces jail for commission snub

FROM R. W. JOHNSON IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICA was electrified by the news yesterday that the former President, P. W. Botha, will face prosecution and a possible two-year jail sentence for refusing to appear before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Mr Botha has maintained a good personal relationship with Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the commission's chairman, and with President Mandela, but has never hidden his contempt for the commission. He pronounced his refusal to obey a subpoena to go before it with the words "I do not perform in circuses".

Announcing the move, Frank Kahn, Attorney-General of the Western Cape, said that, while he was reluctant to proceed in a manner that could lead to the imprisonment of a man of nearly 82 with a history of heart trouble, apart from the issues raised by the case itself, it was a matter of public interest that the prosecution should go ahead.

This was a highly significant ruling: Mr Kahn is an appointee of the Western Cape Regional Government, controlled by the National Party which Mr Botha led from 1978 to 1989. Moreover, the National Party, while criticising the commission for partisan and inconsistent behaviour towards other politicians, has insisted Mr Botha should obey the law.

Alex Boraine, the commission's deputy chairman, made a last-minute appeal to Mr Botha to do so, but he admitted the prospects were slim. Yet if Mr Botha persists, the only alternative — to let him off — would humiliate both the commission and the ANC in a pre-election year.

The case has given Mr Botha a symbolic significance few thought he would enjoy again. As commission hearings have dragged on, the lamentable story of the atrocities committed under his Government has seen his stock sink to an all-time low.

However, the commission has latterly met with increasing resistance and dislike from the white population, especially Afrikaners. In part, this is because it has allegedly given blanket amnesty to dozens of ANC leaders who have neither appeared before it nor disclosed what they did. It has heard many allegations against Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, but has refrained from asking him to appear, knowing he would refuse. And it has subjected the former President, F. W. de Klerk, to a six-hour grilling.

But there is a far wider malaise among Afrikaners, a feeling of dispossession and of victimisation. In such circles one can now hear private tributes to Mr Botha's courage, and satisfaction that someone is standing up to the ANC juggernaut. The liberal Afrikaner academic, Hermann Giliomee, a past severe critic of Mr Botha, has forecast that he will achieve the status of a hero, perhaps even a martyr, in 1998 — precisely what President Mandela would like to avoid.

The awful thought is that the era of reconciliation, which began with the release of one President from jail, could end with the incarceration of another.

America tries to discover water on the Moon

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

NASA, the American space agency, has launched a spacecraft to orbit the Moon for the first time in 25 years.

The unmanned *Lunar Prospector*, which blasted off from Cape Canaveral on Tuesday, is expected to arrive at the Moon on Sunday, after a journey of 105 hours spanning 240,000 miles. The mission, which is costing $63 million (£38 million), will last a year.

Running on rechargeable solar-powered batteries using nickel and hydrogen, the orbiter's objective is to establish whether there is water on the Moon. The discovery of the existence of water would provide a vital step towards the setting-up of a manned lunar outpost.

The *Lunar Prospector* will also undertake to map the entire surface of the Moon, a task which Nasa has been unable to complete so far. The Apollo missions, which ended in 1972, were only able to map a quarter of the lunar surface, focusing on areas around the Moon's equator.



The probe is launched from Cape Canaveral

The new spacecraft is minuscule when compared with the Goliaths of the Apollo age. Shaped like a drum, it is only 4ft 3in high, with a diameter of 4ft 6in. When full of fuel, it weighs 650lb and its three masts are each 8ft long.

The *Lunar Prospector* has five special instruments on board, including a neutron spectrometer that will search for banks of hydrogen, a reliable indicator of the presence of water.

Cayman Islands bar gay cruise ship

GAY rights groups in America yesterday threatened a tourism boycott of the Cayman Islands after the British dependency denied port access to a Caribbean cruise ship booked with 900 gay travellers (Tom Rhodes writes).

Leeward, a Norwegian vessel from Miami chartered by Atlantis Events in West Hollywood, had been scheduled to call at Grand Cayman on February 1 but was banned from doing so by Thomas Jefferson, the islands' Minister of Tourism. "We cannot count on this group to uphold the standards of appropriate behaviour expected of visitors to the Cayman Islands," wrote the minister. Gay rights groups described the decision as morally wrong.

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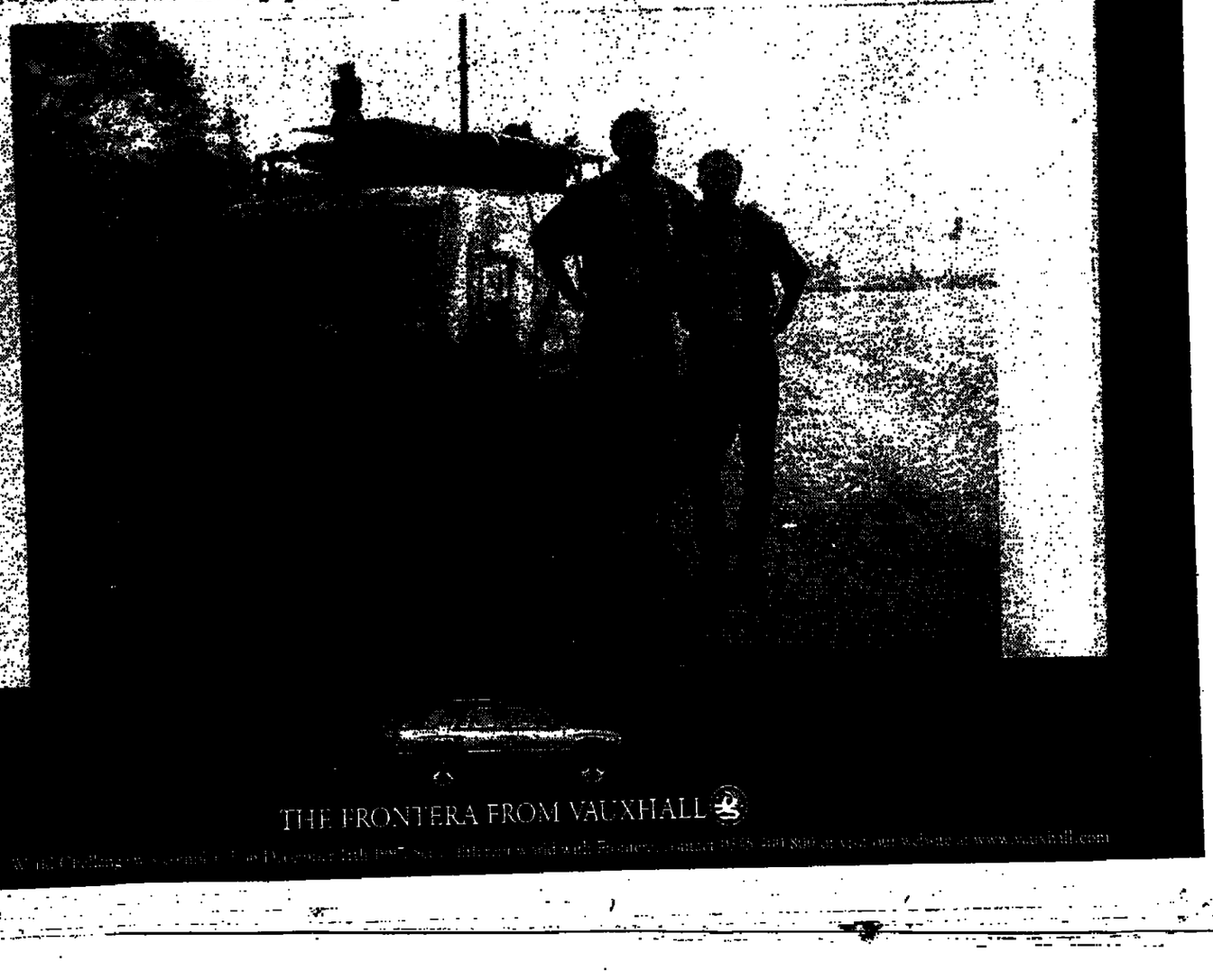
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Essential items for an 18,000 mile trip; 2 fuel tanks, 1 satellite navigation system, 1 emergency transmitter, and 20 tins of prunes. We've covered 1,073 miles since leaving Greenwich, and everything on the Frontera is running as regular as clockwork. Garry snatched 3 hours' sleep on the bunk bed behind the front seats, despite the 15 degree slope making the blood rush to his head. The lads have been lunching on bread rolls and ham (may need those prunes soon). On the down side, weather conditions are a bit rough - heavy rain and spray is keeping visibility down to 100m. Let's hope we don't have to put the anti-lock brakes to the test just yet. Cheers guys, we'll be faxing you every step of the way.



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Dr Thomas Stuttaford reports on depression and suicide, a new approach to HIV testing, the agony of being a shopaholic during the sale season, sweat and bacteria, and the benefits of wearing a bow-tie

The smiling faces that hide despair

The suicide of David Bairstow, the former England and Yorkshire player, has shocked those who admired his cricket, enjoyed his commentaries on the BBC, and were intrigued by his colourful character on and off the field.

Family and close friends have described him as popular and his recent demeanour as positive and jovial. People were obviously misled by the determination with which he adopted a veneer of cheerfulness to conceal his feelings.

Smiling depressives is the term used to describe those depressed patients who hide their emotions behind the socially acceptable grin. They may be motivated by politeness and accept the traditional concept that it is ill-mannered, even inconsiderate, to allow their behaviour to burden others with their personal problems. Other smiling depressives like to preserve their pride and feel that the display of any misery would be the psychological equivalent of hoisting a white flag.

The suicide rate in Britain is almost certainly higher than official figures suggest. When the likelihood of suicide is probable but not certain, an open verdict is returned, but, even so, suicide still accounts for 1 per cent of all deaths.

People who commit suicide are almost invariably depressed, but this is very different from saying that they all



David Bairstow: popular

suffer from an affective disorder (manic-depressive disease), the condition that is often referred to as clinical depression.

Suicide can be a feature of most psychiatric disorders. About one in seven patients who have been diagnosed as suffering from a depressive affective disorder commits suicide, as does about one in ten of those with schizophrenia. Other psychiatric problems commonly linked to suicide are alcoholism, drug dependency and many personality disorders. Alcohol and drug misuse are frequently found in conjunction with these personality disorders. About half the patients who commit suicide would be classified by a doctor who carefully works through the official listing of the symptoms of psychiatric diseases, as having one or another of these disorders.

Patients with chronic diseases are prone to suicide and it is well accepted that women who have had a baby within the previous 18 months are at risk of severe depressive illness. Less well known is that there is also a danger to both men and women who have recently had major surgery.

Suicide victims often share similar characteristics: they are more likely to be men than women and the older the man the greater the likelihood of self-harm. The victims frequently live alone and have often recently been subjected to considerable stress, whether in the family or community. Any criminal proceedings reinforce a depressed patient's sense of failure, unworthiness and guilt and frequently precipitate a suicide attempt.

Whatever the underlying psychiatric disorder, the motivation that finally triggers suicide varies. In some, probably most, cases the patients are overwhelmed by feelings of hopelessness, some may wish to wreak revenge on those left behind or they may hope to achieve atonement for their real or imagined inadequacies and sins by killing themselves. It is not uncommon for bereaved depressed patients to kill themselves on significant anniversaries.

Patients with suicidal thoughts, however obsessional and stiff upper-lipped they may be, usually talk without embarrassment to their doctors about suicide if it is discussed in a sympathetic and matter-of-fact way. They are asked if they have considered it and, if so, how would they carry it out, and have any plans to do so been laid? Perhaps surprisingly, these questions don't cause offence and in 40 years of my asking them none of my patients has seemed to be unduly irritated by them.

Modern antidepressant drugs act more rapidly and have fewer side-effects than the older ones, but if the patient is one of the minority who does not respond they are less toxic and therefore less likely to be dangerous in a suicide bid. Depression is now treatable but only when patients can be persuaded that they need medication.

TIM BISHOP



Sale fever: most of us succumb, but the mentally vulnerable are especially prone to irresponsible spending

No price on peace of mind

THE Harrods sale started yesterday and the sale season is now well established. Cautious bank managers are keeping a check on vulnerable accounts, and people are looking suspiciously at their partner's new designer jacket — "a real saving, originally £550, but it was reduced to £250, so I couldn't resist it" — or a sudden influx of Jermyn Street shirts.

Over-enthusiastic sale shopping may be no more than a reaction to transitory boredom and a good lunch, but it can be totally irresponsible and a symptom of deeper psychological problems.

People who are either manic or depressed may shop with little regard for budget.

Depressed people lacking self-esteem feel that if only they had some new clothes, their poise and sexual allure would be revolutionised; and that new furniture would give them the background to social success that they had previously lacked. The manic, carelessly over-elated and impossibly grandiose and expansive may buy without thought of available funds.

To a shopaholic who suffers from impulse control disorder, the sales may be as dangerous as a bar is to an alcoholic.

Such people are unable to resist the impulse to buy something — or anything — and are able to achieve relief from the mounting tension this desire induces only by capitulating to it and leaving the store weighed down by goodies.

Positive step on HIV

BRITISH determination not to encourage people to be tested for HIV has always amazed those doctors who were educated at a time when the principles of good public health were not diluted by political correctness.

As students, they were told how to trace an outbreak of typhoid, diphtheria or scarlet fever, and were told that it was negligent not to test even the most respectable-looking pregnant matron for syphilis. Often little could be done for the victims of the disease, but at least the general public was protected by the knowledge gained by the doctors.

HIV was treated differently and it was decreed that testing was neither to be done routinely, nor was it to be encouraged. A very different ethos existed in the United States and on most of the Continent, where every effort was made to have as many people as possible tested.

The situation is about to change in this country, however. A national campaign for a new approach to HIV testing has started and is being led by Camden and Islington Health Promotion Service, together with Crusaid, the Aids fundraising society. And many of the groups concerned about HIV have altered their advice now that new — albeit extremely expensive — drugs that can prolong the life, and quality of life, for HIV sufferers are available. Early diagnosis is particularly important as the sooner the drugs are prescribed, the better the outcome for the patient.

Dr Brian Gazzard, chairman of the British HIV Association and consultant physician to the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, a renowned centre for the treatment of HIV, says: "We now recommend starting HIV treatment before the immune system is seriously compromised. It stands to reason that this can only be done if patients know they have HIV."

Dr Ian Williams, of the Mortimer Market Centre, another large Central London clinic, argues that the introduction of widespread testing will be an important move towards better care and control of HIV in Britain. Tessa Jowell, the Minister for Public Health, has already said that it is vital that all pregnant women be tested, because unless the condition is detected before a baby is born, the child is three times more likely to suffer from HIV.

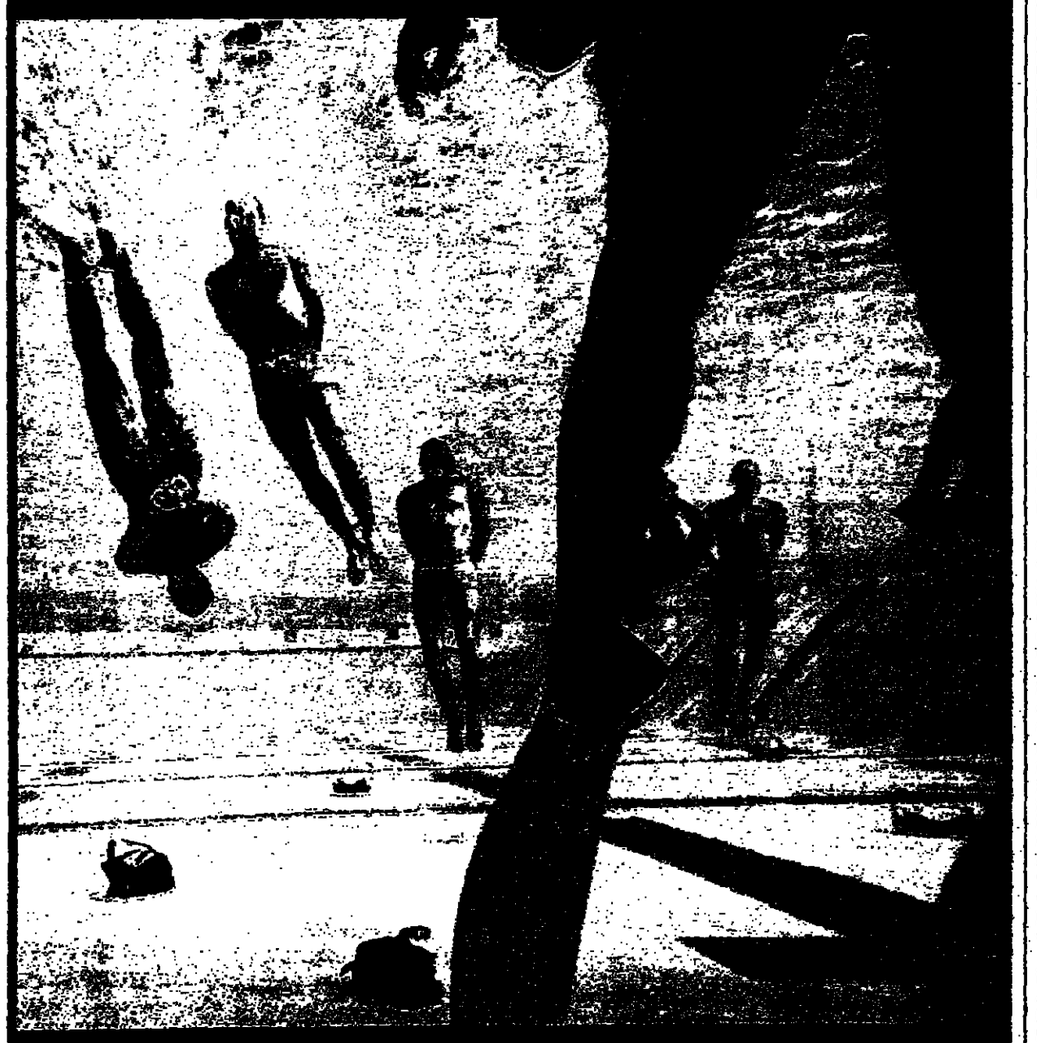
> Young people are now less likely to practise safe sex

The campaign will only improve the present unsatisfactory situation — in which lovers who find a new partner, doctors and nurses dealing with a bleeding patient and ambulance staff and police treating casualties have no idea of the risks that may be confronting them — if those who are HIV-positive behave responsibly. Recent reports have suggested that younger people in general, and homosexual men in particular, are becoming less rather than more likely to practise safe sex.

The treatment now available only controls the condition, it doesn't cure it, and even if HIV-positive men have sex only with others who are HIV-positive, they still run the risk of catching a more virulent strain of the virus, which could be resistant to the much-vaunted new drugs.

Heterosexual people, too, have become quite dismissive of the idea of safe sex. A young patient recently told me: "In the United States, the women I meet believe it to be incredibly irresponsible of me to think of having sex without a condom. In England, by contrast, when I produce one, women look at me, if I am lucky, with amusement and, if unlucky, with disdain."

THE SUNDAY TIMES



WHO DARES SWIMS

Hands and feet bound, these US Navy SEALs recruits must survive 40 minutes underwater fighting for air. Exclusive pictures of America's elite forces in the making, The Sunday Times Magazine this weekend

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS



Bow-ties have fewer bacteria

Ties may be sign of breeding

DOCTORS wear bow-ties more often than most men as these are less likely than the standard style to become contaminated with bacteria.

Several studies have shown that very unpleasant colonies of bacteria will grow on a standard tie that has been cultured in the correct medium. The research confirms that growth is less prolific on bow-ties.

But until now, nobody has looked at the bacterial life on doctors' pens. These also come into contact with patients and their possessions — a pen may be placed on a bed, then politely handed back, infected and unwashed, to the doctor. The pen is then handled by the doctor, who often will not have washed his or her hands before completing notes or writing out a prescription.

The Lancet reports that in a study of 42 doctors' pens, Austrian pathologists found that more than half of them had been infected with at least one type of bacterium, in 40 per cent of the pens more than one variety of organism was flourishing. The authors suggest that periodic disinfection of the pens would be a wise precaution.

The Austrian microbiologists add that as yet there is no evidence that doctors' pens are responsible for spreading diseases.

Sweat and the class issue

JAMES LEES-MILNE, the celebrated and witty diarist who died late last month, has been attacked in the obituary columns for having an excessive interest in class differences, but he studied only artistic taste, dress and social behaviour.

Dr Tony Burns, a consultant dermatologist at Leicester Royal Infirmary, has written in the journal *Dermatology in Practice* on class differences in the bacterial flora of the *axillae* (armpits).

It seems that the armpits of manual workers who sweat are more likely to be predominantly colonised by rather pungent-smelling bacteria, corynebacteria — which are responsible for the distinctive axillary odour — than the armpits of sedentary workers.

The *axillae* of office workers — however hot and sweaty their workplace and even if they are no better washed than those of heavy manual workers — become a haven not for corynebacteria, but for various types of lipoid bacteria that do not produce the same characteristic smell. The other factor affecting body odour is the amount of hair present: hair serves to disseminate the odour.

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Why I have every sympathy for Jack Straw

Michael Howard knows how it feels to have a son targeted by the tabloids. Interview by **Moira Petty**



MARTIN BERDOALL

Mr Howard relaxing at home. Once described by a fellow Tory MP as having "something of the night about him", he is actually a true romantic according to his wife Sandra

Shadow foreign secretary Michael Howard admits that for the erstwhile power brokers of Westminster, adapting to life on the opposition benches has not been easy.

The past eight months have been a crash course in the art of Opposition, and he is doing his best to adapt to life in the slow lane. "You have less to do," he says wryly, "but then you have fewer people to help you do it."

You might expect him to delight in the Government's every discomfiture, the most recent prominent example being the exposure of Home Secretary Jack Straw's son for selling a small quantity of cannabis to a newspaper reporter. Not so. Mr Howard has good reason to feel outrage at Jack Staw's treatment at the hands of a tabloid newspaper.

Two years ago, during Mr Howard's four-year tenure as Home Secretary, the same newspaper targeted his son Nick, then 19 and a student at St Catherine's, Oxford, in an attempt to smear him. "A *Mirror* reporter knocked on Nick's door at 7am to say that the paper had it on good authority that Nick had spent the previous weekend having his stomach pumped in a London hospital after a cocaine overdose," he recalls.

"In fact he had spent that night at the theatre in Oxford. He mentioned it to us when he next called. He was perfectly relaxed but I was very upset. I don't think a 19-year-old should be subjected to that. He simply told the reporter that if that was their best authority, he hated to think what the rest of their information was like."

Mr Howard considers Jack Straw's behaviour to have been exemplary throughout. "It rang a very strong bell within me when the story came out. I have every sympathy for him, and he has widespread support.

"I certainly do not think he should resign. It was wrong of Paul Flynn, the Labour MP who is in favour of legalising cannabis, to suggest that he should resign."

Mr Howard, 56, often portrayed by satirists as oleaginous, is charm itself at his London home, gallantly wrestling to put my wrap on a coat-hanger. "I think that one's defeated you," laughs his wife Sandra, a former model and a picture of understated chic in black and cream.

Married for 22 years, the couple met at a charity ball when the subject of their first conversation was Mr Howard's lyrical account of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender Is The Night*. Their student daughter Larissa was named after another of his literary favourites. "It is the full name of Lara in *Dr Zhivago*," he explains.

"He is an extraordinarily romantic man," adds his wife. "Sending me flowers, all that. It's great — it helps to make the world go round."

Their marriage is known to be one of the happiest among serving politicians. "I have always tried, I hope successfully, to find time for the concerns of my family," he says. "They are the most important thing to me. I am a very, very lucky man to have married Sandra."

> 'I can still play my part without being leader'

Last week Mr Howard toasted the new year with champagne. And no, he says, he has not lost the taste for bubbly despite last year's celebratory champagne with William Hague to seal their Tory leadership pact — which was rescinded by Hague the next morning. He may even, he thinks, have a bottle chilling in the fridge, but he cannot be sure.

"We had an agreement and he changed his mind," he says, smiling hard. "It is all in the past." The aborted deal scuppered his chances of leading the Conservative Party — probably, he agrees, for ever. "I have had one shot at leadership and that's it.

"You go into politics to make Britain a better place, and I think I did a little bit towards that by bringing down the crime figures. I can still play my part without being leader."

He will not admit to even a twinge over what might have been. "We have an excellent relationship. Now we have to look forward and make ourselves the party of effective opposition," he cries, with a little bounce on the well-upholstered floral sofa.

As the elder statesman, does he feel protective when Hague is the butt of vicious attacks, such as the "foetus" jibe? "That was outrageous. But William is perfectly capable of looking after himself," he replies. He concedes, though, that his leader has some way to go to convince the country of his abilities.

"If you have seen William Hague in the Commons, you will be in no doubt that he is a match for Tony Blair, but the public has not yet got to know him and in time they will appreciate this."

His new year resolution is possibly to repair fences broken last year. When former Prisons Minister Ann Widdecombe attacked his record in that area in a scathing 40-minute Commons diatribe last May, it was seen as no coincidence that the attack came at the time of the Tory leadership campaign. When she failed to win a shadow frontbench appointment, it was rumoured that this was the price of Mr Howard backing Mr Hague in the second and third rounds.

"I never had any discussions of that nature," he says. Nor has he heard the story that the black labrador puppy given by Ann Widdecombe to the daughter of an MP has been named Michael. "I have no idea about that," he says tightly. "It's all in the past.

"What I do want to say about her is that, while some of us have not found it easy to adapt to opposition, Ann has been particularly effective. She has been particularly forthright in her views and has done very well in exposing the Government."

He claims not to be angered by this week's round-robin letter to a newspaper from Tory grandees including Michael Heseltine, Kenneth Clarke and Chris Patten, stating the Europhile case. "Grandee? I have never known what a grandee was," he exclaims. "I just want a proper debate on the issue. I am not interested in who signed that letter."

He claims that William Hague's wish to defer entry into the European Monetary Union (EMU) has been misrepresented. The correct course, he believes, is to monitor EMU for this period before deciding if, rather than when, Britain should join.

"It is a pragmatic policy based on the extent to which this decision should be far-reaching and irreversible," he says. His view is that EMU would inevitably involve a federal Europe. "Power would be taken away from our Parliament and from the people who send us to Westminster."

Could we not just send him and his colleagues a bit farther — to Brussels, I ask? "You won't be sending *me* to Brussels," he says.

His Eurosceptic beliefs are rooted in his childhood. His father, a Romanian Jew, came to Britain before the last war to work as a cantor in a South Wales synagogue. Father and son had many conversations about the nature of being British. "He was particularly conscious of the great qualities in this country, and so am I. He often spoke to me of the decency, tolerance and fairness of this country."

Mr Howard's father died of cancer at 49, just months after his son fought his first election in 1962, which he lost. "I think he was proud of me. His death had a big impact on me and I still miss him a lot."

He has one sister, who is a consultant on stress and anxiety. "I haven't had to seek her advice," he says silkily.

Of the new Government's record so far, he does not have pleasant things to say. "Labour is pursuing our agenda and it is not easy to watch," he says furiously. Jack Straw's initiatives on tackling juvenile crime are, he says, based on proposals that he published shortly before leaving office.

But Mr Straw's proposal to curtail sentences leaves him seething. "They should serve the sentence passed by the courts."

As for his opposite number, Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, he says: "I don't think he has covered himself in glory. There is the fiasco of what he calls ethical foreign policy. He has upset countries to whom we will continue to supply defence equipment, and he has aroused expectations he cannot hope to fulfil.

"The Queen's visit to Kashmir was spoilt by indiscreet remarks about Kashmir. He has to learn that in foreign policy, what you say in private matters as much as when you are speaking publicly."

He shares with Mr Cook a passion for horse racing. "I gamble and I lose more often than I win. Someone wrote to me saying that it was disgraceful that Mr Cook had been asked to write a racing column for a Dubai newspaper. I wrote back and said it certainly was not disgraceful," says the man who begins every holiday with the latest Dick Francis thriller and who, despite Ms Widdecombe's infamous description that he has "something of the night" about him, appears, for the moment at least, to be behaving like a true thoroughbred.

Hard laws lead to hard drugs

Cannabis is no addictive life-wrecker, **Mary Ann Sieghart** says. But its illegality can draw young people into heroin use

It's official: cannabis wrecks lives. So says the Home Secretary. So says William Hague. And how does the Tory leader know? He saw the drug "wrecking the lives" of many of his fellow undergraduates at Oxford.

It is the sort of assertion that you tend to accept — unless you know otherwise. I was at the same university as William Hague, in the same year, studying the same subject. Most of the people I knew at that time smoked cannabis. None of their lives has been wrecked by the drug. Indeed, every single one of those friends has since prospered.

Several are now entrepreneurs, worth millions; there is a clutch of well-to-do barristers; an actor and a novelist who are both household names; several investment bankers, and more than a handful in the media. One or two are Tory MPs, but I won't mention their names. Most have children and lead enviably stable, professional lives.

About half have grown out of smoking pot. A few still do so regularly; most of the rest do only when offered it, usually at weekends. I know of four who smoke joints every evening. But even they are extremely successful in their fields. Far from sapping their motivation, the drug acts as a relaxant after a hard day's work.

I do not deny that cannabis has its casualties. So does alcohol. Any drug will do its worst to those who have addictive personalities. Some people can do nothing in moderation: if they drink they have to get blind drunk; if they smoke dope, they have to get wrecked. People who roll a joint in the morning and are stoned all day are as sad as those who wake up and pour themselves a brandy. But we do not ban alcohol because a small proportion of those who drink abuse it. The same logic should apply to cannabis.

Those who are natural addicts will anyway shift from one drug to another. Heroin addicts who manage to give up know that they dare not touch a drink, for that drug may enslave them as surely as the previous one did. If cannabis casualties were denied access to pot, they would simply escape from the world via a different route. What wrecks their lives is their addictive natures.

But do soft drugs lead to harder ones? At Oxford, there were indeed other drugs around: speed (to help students through essay crises), LSD, magic mushrooms, cocaine for the seriously rich. Some people took these experimentally and recreationally. I can't remember anyone having a serious "problem" with them, although one rather bluff rower had an acid trip that expanded his mind rather wider than it was used to being stretched.

Until our third year, drug-taking seemed to be a pretty harmless occupation. It livened up people's evenings and weekends, but did not affect their work. Then one of the dealers started selling heroin.

And suddenly a small group of otherwise lively, talented undergraduates fell under its spell. My brother and I, who had seen heroin destroy the lives of some London friends, became the most proselytising of preachers, trying to persuade others not to touch the stuff. We had only limited success.



Mary Ann Sieghart: high-flyers dabble

Heroin is the really dangerous drug. One boy I knew died of an overdose. All but one of the rest gave it up, and now lead perfectly successful lives. (Oddly enough, so does the junkie.) But it took a chunk out of their early adult years, and left scars that will never completely fade.

This is the drug that undoubtedly wrecks lives. The only reason why some of my friends encountered it, though, was because they had to go to an underworld drug dealer in order to buy their relatively harmless cannabis. If anything acts as a gateway to dangerous drugs, it is the illegal status of pot.

This illegality also has a distorting effect on the picture that most people have of drug-takers. They encounter only the casualties, the equivalent of alcoholics: those who smoke cannabis in moderation and lead unwrecked lives are reluctant to advertise the fact because the law has criminalised them.

But, if Mr Hague had moved in different circles at Oxford, he would have discovered that "social" pot smokers, like social drinkers, are just normal, respectable and well-adjusted members of society — no different, indeed, from him.

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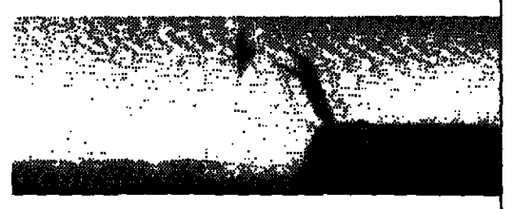
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The Yard is keeping us in the dark

Commissioner Condon has gagged the press, says **Kelvin MacKenzie**

A crime reporter I have known for more than a decade told me an extraordinary story. A well respected journalist from a local paper is jumped on by a sex attacker as she makes her way home on a winter evening. She stands up to him and, after a struggle, sees him off. Still shaken, the journalist is taken to the police station. "You were lucky," an officer tells her. "There have been four other attacks down that road." The journalist creases her brow. She works for the local paper but the story has never been reported. Why?

It appears that relations between the paper and the police were poor and officers had simply, and disgracefully, decided to keep the story to themselves.

I was astonished; what right had they to withhold such vital information? Had the journalist known of the attacks, she certainly would not have walked down that road. But I was to become even more astonished as my reporter friend began to detail how Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Commissioner, was attempting — very successfully — to stop officers disclosing "unauthorised" information of *any* kind to journalists.

There has always been an uneasy relationship between press and police. When there is a big show trial, senior officers fall over themselves to give background information and pictures of themselves to the media. But police life is not all about drug barons being swooped on or psychos snared. It is, as Condon of the Yard well knows, about mugging, car theft and burglary. And if much of such crime is reported in the media, then the public might think that the police are not on top of the job.

So Condon has come up with a unique solution. Don't stop the crime, stop reporting crimes. His officers are now studying the mobile phones and pagers of crime journalists to see which numbers are calling in. They then trace the numbers, looking for links with detectives. To get round this, many journalists now give a number to their police contacts — say 18 — so when the officer leaves a pager message with 18 on it, the reporter can simply go to a payphone and ring him back. Is this really any way to behave in the information age?

I'm further told that the Complaints Investigation Bureau (CIB2) has a special team concentrating on newsmen. Would it not be a better use of public money if there were more anti-mugging patrols?

Now, I would argue that if a policeman receives a tip fee for revealing a break-in that should have been reported anyway, that's fine. Crime reporters, however, take a different line. They say they have known many of their contacts for years and a basis of trust has formed under which they help each other.

Under the Condon regime, however, all help has come to an end. Worse, officers who are thought to have assisted journalists find that a promotion does not happen, or a mysterious posting sends them from the drug squad to the traffic department. Forget the ludicrous scenario of officers quaking as the crime reporter approaches. What about the moral question of withholding information?

As part of the crackdown on crime, victims are asked to tick a box if they want publicity. This is a neat device which enables the police to hide behind the phrase: "He doesn't want publicity." How absurd.

Crime victims should have few rights over the publicity surrounding the crime, with the exception that their identity should, under certain circumstances, be withheld. I want to know — I *demand* to know — how many muggings there have been down certain streets, so I can avoid them. My daughter *demands* to know if there has been a rape in her area, so that she can take extra care; my mother *demands* to know if there have been burglaries anywhere near her, so she can put on that extra bolt at night and feel that little safer. A victim is a vital link in the security chain.

His answer to the problem is, don't stop crime, stop reporting it

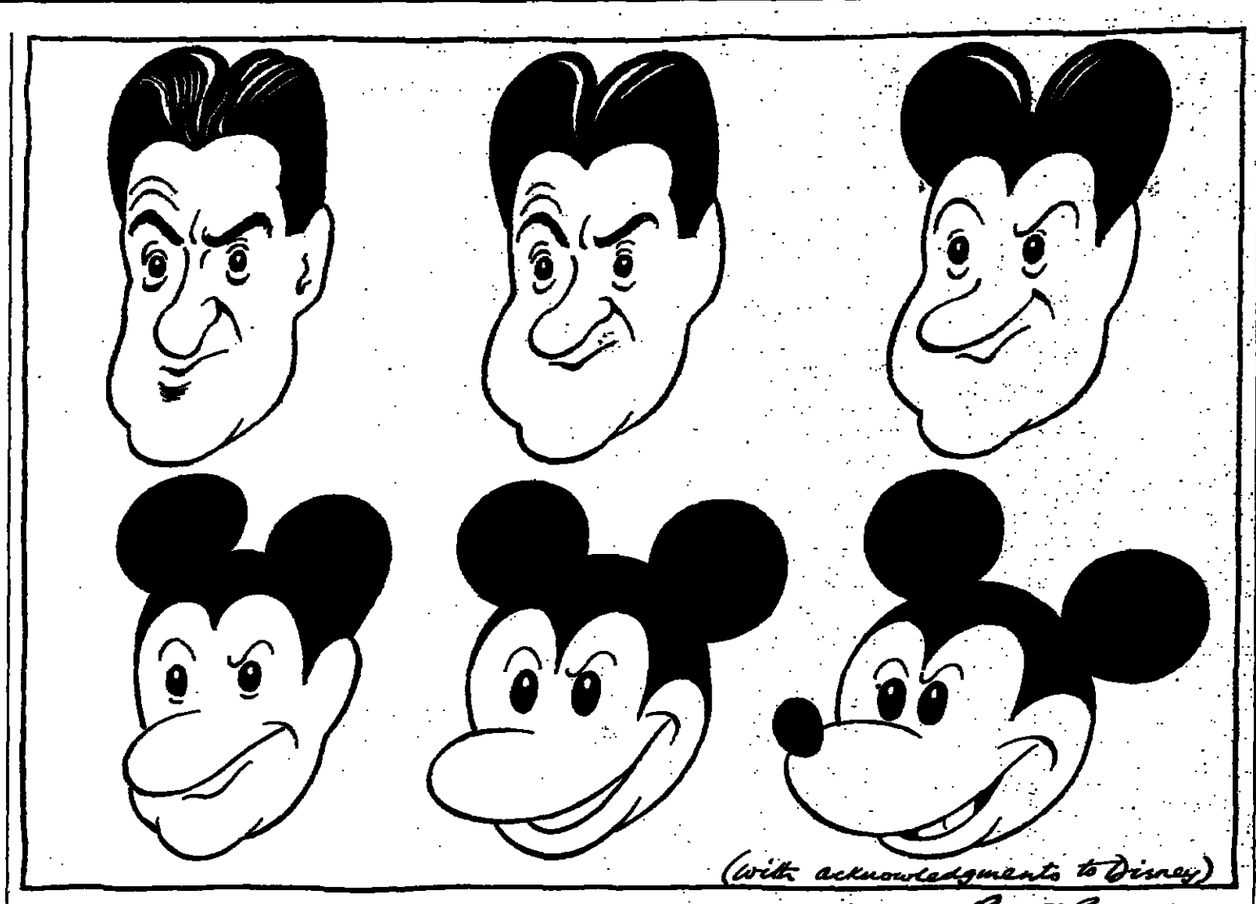
The final part of Condon's masterplan is the use of the hapless Scotland Yard press bureau. Most of the major crimes in London are passed from local stations to the Yard. However, there is a caveat. The PR guys are under orders not to disclose these stories to the journalists. Only if a reporter happens to discover the big story will they confirm it: what they will never do is reveal it in the first place.

So what is the artful game the Commissioner is playing? I could be churlish and say it's all about ennoblement. A knighthood goes with the Met job and if he ever fancies being Lord Condon then a bucketload of bad crime stories would surely not help.

Could I suggest that he will become Lord Condon a damn sight quicker if he takes the approach of New York's Mayor Giuliani? There is a terrific relationship between the police and press in the Big Apple. The mayor insists that crime is fully reported, first so that he can put pressure on the police to deliver (something that does not happen here) and second so that he can show the people that the politicians really care about their safety. Had my story about the woman reporter happened in New York, she could have sued and won millions of dollars for lack of disclosure.

Crime has surely not become a career vehicle for an ambitious police officer. The criminal represents an enduring threat to our peace of mind. The public should be told at every opportunity where that threat lurks.

The author is the managing director of Mirror Television and a former Editor of The Sun. *This is an edited version of an article appearing in this week's* Spectator.



Priests need no peerage

Anglican bishops have to compromise with the modern world by sitting in the Lords; Cardinal Hume does not

William Rees-Mogg

Though made with the best of intentions, and by loyal Roman Catholics, the suggestion that Cardinal Hume should be made a peer is a typically English act of presumption. It shows a failure to understand the difference between the role of the Roman Catholic Church and that of the House of Lords. It is as absurd a proposal as it would be to suggest that the Pope ought to be elected as an MEP.

One has only to ask what the two bodies are for. The House of Lords is an ancient and respectable secular institution, with the useful function of revising legislation decided by the House of Commons. It is also the supreme court of the United Kingdom, though subordinate to the European Court.

The Roman Catholic Church, as it is commonly called in this country, is the largest of the world's Christian Churches, with something close to a billion members. It is responsible for their spiritual welfare and has the ultimate aim of saving their souls, and indeed of preaching the Gospel of Christ to the whole of mankind.

Even from an agnostic point of view, one could see the difference of scale. The House of Lords is a subordinate part of the constitutional arrangements of a middle-ranking power. The Roman Catholic Church — whether it is thought to be teaching the truth or a fantasy — is the largest religious organisation on earth; the other major religions do not have a similar organisational structure. Even if one does not accept its doctrines, its cultural influence is immense. If one does accept the doctrines, then its role is of a wholly different order of value from that of any legislature. The reason Cardinal Hume should not become a member of the House of Lords is because his Church is important in a way the House of Lords is not.

I have not been able to establish who was the last cardinal to sit in the House of Lords. Wolsey certainly did so in the reign of Henry VIII; Reginald Pole was Cardinal Archbishop of Canterbury in the closing years of the reign of Mary Tudor; a Parliament was called on November 5, a few days before his death, which occurred on the same day as the Queen's (November 17). No one, I think, doubts that Cardinal Hume would be a distinguished addition to the House of Lords; he has probably been the most admired spiritual leader of his generation in Britain.

The question is not whether Cardinal Hume could make a contribution to the House of Lords, but whether being a peer would help him to carry out his work as archbishop. It would not give him a better platform than the pulpit he already has. Nobody would be more inclined to listen to the Christian message because it was being preached not by Cardinal Basil Hume, but by Cardinal Lord Hume of Ampleforth. The newspapers already report what he has to say, and they do not much report the House of Lords.

It would be nice to think that his presence in the House of Lords would suddenly convert the House from its present tolerant approval of the evils of mass abortion. No doubt the House would listen with great courtesy to his expression of horror at the number of babies killed in the womb. Unfortunately, the House consists of more men and women of this world than of the next. They are practical people; many are agnostic; only a small minority are Roman Catholics; many regard science as a better guide to conduct than religion. Cardinal Hume might perform a miracle of conversion, but it seems unlikely. The House of Lords is too modern a place for that.

It is less certain how his own congregation would react. Some undoubtedly would regard membership of the House of Lords as a sign that the cardinal had joined the Establishment — that he had been diverted from the Church's mission to the poor to a mission to the rich. More gently, it might be felt he had lowered himself into the merely benign ranks of the "great and good". No doubt others would feel it was a recognition that the Roman Catholic community had become a respectable part of British society; that the old British fear of Jesuits and the Inquisition had at long last been laid to rest. But the Roman Catholic Church is not like a provincial orchestra, which is flattered when its conductor is appointed the OBE.

There still is, and there ought to be, some tension between the Roman Catholic community and British culture at large. Roman Catholics as individuals are almost as liable as anyone else to live by the standards of the modern age, they accept its materialism, listen to the same pop music, often lose the habit of attending Mass, may take pot, get drunk on Friday nights, cohabit before marriage, go gay, commit adultery, get divorced. Yet they are conscious of their Church's *teaching even when* they do not themselves follow it. The Church preaches metaphysical and ethical doctrines which go against the grain of the modern age, as they have gone against the grain of every previous century. How could there fail to be a tension between what the Church teaches and the way of the world?

The role of even the most sympathetic Roman Catholic priest does, therefore, contain an opposition to the world; Pope John Paul II is a good example of that. Indeed, this not only true of the Roman Catholic Church but of the Christian Churches as a whole, and of all the world religions. Some are more forthright than others in their opposition to the world culture, but a good Christian, a good Jew, a good Muslim, a good Buddhist, a good Hindu, even a good Confucian, is bound to reject a large part of it. If the history of mankind had naturally developed cultures of high ethical and spiritual standards, there might be little need for the religious critique. Unfortunately, it has not.

There are 24 bishops of the Church of England, plus the two archbishops, who sit in the House of Lords. If one believes, as I do, that it would be wrong for the cardinal to join the House of Lords because that would demean his spiritual function, can it be right for the Anglican bishops and archbishops to remain as members? The Government is committed to abolishing hereditary peers: should it remove the bishops at the same time?

The basic argument must be the same. The Anglican bishops, though belonging to a different Church, are Christian leaders whose function is to teach Christian truths, which are not consistent with the values of modern culture. The House of Lords has to work with this contemporary culture, though many of its members hold their own religious beliefs. To some extent membership of the House of Lords must therefore confuse the role of the bishops or of any other religious leaders; practical legislation often conflicts with religious teaching. There is always some moral compromise in legislative work.

Yet if the Government were to remove the Anglican bishops from the House of Lords, or if the bishops removed themselves, that would be a long step towards the disestablishment of the Church of England. In all constitutional matters, change as such has a different impact from merely maintaining the status quo. Even in the case of the monarchy, few people would advocate an hereditary monarchy if it did not already exist. One could reasonably think it wrong to bring bishops into the House of Lords, but it would also be wrong to remove them.

The virtue of the Church of England is its deep integration with English life. It would not be the same Church if it were disestablished. It might break up, it might simply fade away, as the Episcopal Church in the United States seems to have done. In the meantime, it provides a home for many Christian souls who lead lives of great spiritual value. It is also the structure which supports many good works.

Disestablishment would risk all this. There would be some gain in freedom; there might be a new moral clarity in independence. Yet the Church of England would have lost far more than it would have gained. At present it helps large numbers of people to lead Christian lives, and gives even larger numbers some feeling that they remain in contact with Christianity. The Anglican bishops should therefore remain in the House of Lords. It is a necessary part of the Establishment system. Cardinal Hume is not part of an established church, and does not need to make the same sacrifice.

Getting set for the euro

Eddie George outlines the City's preparations

The single European currency will have important implications for this country, whatever decision Britain eventually takes on membership. And it is essential, as Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, has said, that the Government and British businesses prepare intensively so that we will be able to take the decision to join the single currency, should we wish to do so, in the next Parliament. But the City of London must prepare more rapidly because, despite the Government's decision not to seek membership of the single currency on January 1 next year, the financial markets must be ready to trade the euro and euro-denominated financial instruments from the start of economic and monetary union.

The advent of the euro will encourage the development of broader, deeper and more liquid markets in financial instruments to replace markets fragmented by the various national currencies. The euro represents an opportunity for the City, not least because the location of financial activity does not depend on the local currency. Financial markets do business wherever it can most conveniently, efficiently and profitably be carried on.

This reality is underlined by the fact that foreign-owned institutions continue to bolster their presence in London, despite the British position on the single currency. Competition between financial centres is not a matter of beggar thy neighbour. International or intra-regional trade and investment activity is not, at the macroeconomic level, a zero-sum game. It is very much a *positive* sum game. Thus all European financial centres have the same basic interest: to make the euro a success.

If London is to take advantage of the opportunities created by the euro, it must be well-prepared technically. British institutions and markets appear to be taking the necessary steps.

The Bank of England has been, and will continue to be, heavily engaged in encouraging and assisting the City's preparation. Our role is focused on three main tasks. First, we are seeking to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is developed so that anyone who wishes to do so can use the euro in wholesale payments, and in the London financial markets, from next January. Secondly, we have sought to promote discussion between the European Monetary Institute (EMI), national central banks and market participants across Europe about issues on which the market is seeking co-ordination. Thirdly, we have provided information through our quarterly publication *Practical Issues Arising from the Introduction of the Euro.*

The Bank has been working primarily through the many active professional market associations in London. Payments experts are working on a euro payments system; lawyers are helping with a legal structure; accountants are looking at the accounting and tax implications. Two areas of preparation are particularly important: the euro payments infrastructure, and the market framework for the single currency.

We are constructing payments arrangements for the euro in London which we intend to be at least as efficient and cheap as anywhere else in Europe. In Britain, the real-time gross settlement system, which came into operation last spring, is being developed to accommodate the euro when Britain joins the single currency. When that happens, the sterling system will effectively become a euro system. Until then, a euro system will sit alongside the sterling system, linked to the pan-European arrangement, Target, which we support.

The second important area of preparation is the development of a comprehensive market framework for the use of the euro in London. The euro regulations help to provide the legal part of the framework, but if the market is to be as deep and liquid as possible, we need to harmonise market conventions in the euro money and bond markets, as well as in the foreign exchange markets. Market associations have agreed the basis on which conventions in these markets should be harmonised.

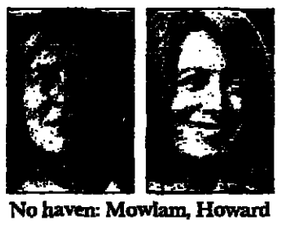
One problem has been to see how decisions will be taken throughout the European Union. Harmonised practices may develop spontaneously in the markets, but this is by no means guaranteed. So it is very helpful that the EMI council decided last September, with our encouragement, to "welcome and support" harmonised conventions proposed by the market associations. But there remains a good deal to be done.

The City of London is a uniquely international financial centre which contributes enormously to the British economy and the wellbeing of the population. But the City does not hold this pre-eminent position by right — rather, it *earns* it. Clearly, we need to continue to work to earn this position. And, in terms of working to be ready for the euro, I am confident that the City will be.

The author is Governor of the Bank of England and this is an edited contribution to Britain in Europe, *published today with a foreword by Gordon Brown (Stratagems, £4.99).*

Moving up

WITH true new Labour discernment, Mo Mowlam is discarding her grace and favour house in Belgravia. The Northern Ireland Secretary has found the early Victorian surroundings uncongenial, with rather corporate furnishings and gloomy aspects. The terraced house — valued at a little over £1 million — is the official residence of the Home Secretary but Jack Straw did not move in after May 1 because he found his own pad near the river more the thing. The official house is built like a fortress; the basement has been turned into a security control centre, parking is banned outside and there is a box for a policeman on the steps. Even the smartest visitors are encouraged to use the back door. Ms Mowlam is to move to a more discreet address, which I have promised not to divulge. Sympathy comes from an unlikely source: Sandra Howard, the charming wife of the former Home Secretary, Michael. She was advised to sell the couple's Chelsea house to move into the residence: "We knew it would be helpful to the police if we moved in as it is very secure. Our teenage children had their own kitchen, but it is not an amazingly elegant house."


No haven: Mowlam, Howard

● *SUPPORT, of sorts, for the Prince of Wales, and the bobble hat he has sported on the slopes, comes from the Welsh comedian, Griff Rhys Jones. He was seen in a shop in Oxford Street yesterday, trying on a black bobble hat with orange horns. When this prompted disrespectful comments, he took to bouncing round the store announcing: "I'm Mel Smith."*

Lost soul

SPIRITUALITY and William Hague are not easily associated, but the Tory leader — a practical sort — has just described himself as a "practising Christian". He has long indulged in transcendental meditation but has hitherto restricted his theological observations to speculating that God might be found "high up in the Yorkshire Dales". But it would seem that Hague is less likely to be found in his local church. A warden at St Saviour's, Pimlico, says: "I've never set eyes on him. I didn't even know he was in our parish."

● *DEFYING the custom that rats normally scarper as the ship goes down, rodents have surfaced at the Royal Opera House. The worst hit is the press office in Bow Street, Covent Garden. So bad is the infestation that staff have been issued with a detailed "rodent report", instructing them what to do should they encounter one of the vermin — breathe deeply, stand on a chair, don't tell the newspapers. "We've put down poison but it hasn't worked," says a toiler. "We've got a serious problem on our hands." Less grave matters — their embarrassingly large overdraft and lack of digs — will just have to wait.*

Cardinal blow

AS THE campaign to elevate Cardinal Hume to the House of Lords gathers strength, one small problem is emerging: he doesn't want a peerage. "Basil was first offered one by Jim Callaghan and has turned one down five times," says a senior source close to the cardinal. "Blair knows this from his files." There is also the little problem of Canon Law 285, Part 3: "Clerics are forbidden to assume public office ..." The Rev Robert Drinan was hauled out of the House of Representatives by the Pope in 1981. Then, when a leading Sandinista, Cardenel Ernesto, tried to pay homage to the Pope, *Il Papa* walked purposefully past.



"The blasted video machine hasn't recorded the football"

Turf wars

LORD BUTLER's arrival in the Master's lodge at University College, Oxford, has sent a few ripples through the quad. After my disclosure that Elizabeth Crawford, the domestic bursar, is eyeing the new boy nervously (she had an "exchange of views" with his son, Andrew Butler, when he studied at the college) news of further upheaval reaches Diary Towers. Unlike recent Masters, the freshly-retired Cabinet Secretary is no bachelor and deems the Neo-Gothic pile inadequate for their needs. So, to make sure his three (grown-up) children have somewhere to stay, he has turfed out two female students from the best "set" on the main quad. One consolation: I gather that the dispossessed two were invited down to the Cabinet Office for a "personal apology".


Thatcher: victory parade

● *REJOICE: Baroness Thatcher has been immortalised in this delightful mural in Rules, a smartish restaurant in Covent Garden frequented by erstwhile Tory ministers, staring into their leek soup, who could do with a bit of cheering up. The artist, John Springs, depicts her as Joan of Arc, celebrating her victory in the Falklands. "The baroness hasn't been here since it went up," says a flunkey. "She may get a bit of a shock."*

JASPER GERARD

هكذا من الأصل

A LEAD FROM LONDON

Blair must take Ulster's people into his confidence

Democracy demands that Northern Ireland's future should be decided by Northern Ireland's people: peace, however, requires a lead from London. A Government which has been happy to be facilitator should give a clearer indication of what it believes that future could be. Tomorrow the liaison group of British and Irish officials who have been working to promote an agreement among Northern Ireland parties will meet to prepare a joint paper on a possible settlement. Northern Ireland needs more than the drafting skills of Rolls-Royce minds to preserve its fraying peace, just as it needs more than the personal touch of the Northern Ireland Secretary in the Maze. A clear statement of United Kingdom government thinking, which allays the worst fears of Unionists, may help to maintain the waning confidence in the talks process.

The causes of Unionist disaffection are as numerous as the organisations which compete to speak for Northern Ireland's majority. The loyalist parties do not come to the talks with clean hands; many of their concerns are dictated by the demands of prisoners rather than the stability of the State. But their analysis that republican pressure is driving the peace process is shared well beyond their ranks. The fears they articulate will not be allayed just by prison visiting, however well-intentioned.

A Government which explicitly addressed concerns about the ultimate direction of talks would certainly help to maintain the fragile loyalist ceasefire. Even if there were no prospect of its breakdown, the broader pro-Union majority deserves, in any case, to be reassured. Candour would serve the needs of *realpolitik* as well as being consonant with democratic principle. The accumulation of concessions to militant republicanism has allowed the impression to take root in Unionist minds that what Sinn Fein wants it will, eventually, get. In the absence of an explicit indication of what the Government's vision of a settlement might be, Unionists imagine the worst.

Their pessimism may be exaggerated but they do not lack reasons to be fearful. Before Christmas there was a measure of provisional accord within the talks between constitutional parties about potential areas of agreement. The Irish Government, however, forestalled progress towards blueprints for devolution lest announcements about a new Ulster assembly should provoke discontent within republicanism and strengthen the hand of those anxious to return to war. Unionists are understandably frustrated that a devolved structure to which moderate nationalists do not object in principle was subject to a de facto IRA veto.

The Prime Minister will have been made aware of the extent of Unionist disaffection and the need for leadership after his meeting with David Trimble, the Unionist leader, on Tuesday night. He has already, in Belfast last spring, spoken with admirable clarity about the democratic realities which make the continuance of the Union a fact for the future as far as anyone can foresee. A position paper should be published to coincide with the resumption of talks on Monday. It should explain how the Union might be modernised to accommodate legitimate nationalist concerns.

If it did so, it would achieve a great deal. It could lower the temperature in Unionist communities and strengthen the case for Mr Trimble's continued participation in a talks process which many in his party reject. It would also enable the virtues of the current talks to be convincingly spelt out to honest sceptics and help moderates in the SDLP leadership to temper nationalist expectations with proper realism. Unionists need to see that the political process can safeguard their interests if the political process is to survive.

SCHENGEN SHIVERS

Across Europe, doors are slamming shut

Celebrated with roses, *prosecco* and military bands at its airports, Italy last November took its first giant stride into Schengenland, the frontier-free zone that now includes the majority of European Union countries. The final dismantling of Italy's "internal" frontiers is scheduled for April 1, when controls are also to end on land and sea borders with the EU. That party may have to be postponed; for within a week of Italy becoming an operational member of the Schengen agreement, boatloads of immigrants, mostly Turkish and Iraqi Kurds but including Pakistanis and other nationalities, began arriving off the Italian coast.

This influx is, as yet, not on the scale of the earlier massed migration of Albanians to Italy; but politically, it is vastly more sensitive. Italy's decision to grant most of the Kurds political asylum — coupled with a ringing new year pledge by President Scalfaro to keep Italy's arms "wide open" to refugees — has infuriated Turkey. Ankara insists that they are not refugees but economic migrants ferried by criminal rings which charge up to £3,000 for their one-way tickets. The European Commission agrees that the Mafia is heavily involved; Turkey, after its rebuff at the Luxembourg summit, is in no mood to be lectured on Kurdish rights.

As for Italy's Schengen partners, they are not just angry but frantic. This episode has confirmed their always grave doubts about Italy's capacity to police the long coastline which is its main "external" frontier. Italy's immigration laws make matters worse. Illegal immigrants are not arrested but simply given 15 days to leave the country. Around 80 per cent just disappear. France complains that one result is that 30 per cent of its illegal immigrants slip across the border from Italy. Rome's promise to tighten this law has yet to be acted on.

In theory, national asylum policies have nothing to do with Schengen, which is supposed to be about about free circulation within the EU. The political case for Schengen is that people should be free to move within what the Amsterdam Treaty calls Europe's "area of freedom, security and justice". The pragmatic case is that control of the EU's land frontiers is anyway unenforceable. But the surge in drug-trafficking and Mafia rings for illegal immigration was causing second thoughts even before this latest episode. In the absence of border controls, both refugees and immigrants can in practice go anywhere in Schengenland. No one expects the Kurds to stay in Italy; they are far more likely to try to join the half million of their compatriots in Germany, or the 80,000 already in France. Those accepted by Italy as temporary or permanent residents can do so perfectly legally.

Across the EU this week, the sound is of doors slamming shut. Interior ministers and police chiefs are questioning the sustainability of the Schengen dream of open borders. Austria, which joined the Schengen regime only last month, has reinstated controls on its Italian frontier. France, where a storm over immigration is rapidly becoming entangled with demands for a referendum over the Amsterdam treaty, has sent riot police to the Franco-Italian frontier. In Germany, where immigration and law and order are fast becoming this year's key electoral battleground, opposition Social Democrats have demanded that Schengen be shelved. Rethinking is urgent. Britain argued from the first that Schengen would be a free pass for organised crime. The deal has also heightened xenophobia. Top-down schemes to "unite" Europe are prey to unintended consequences. Enthusiasts for EMU should take note.

WITHOUT DELAY

Unpunctual rail operators must be heavily penalised

Not only governments have trouble making the trains run on time. The latest figures gleaned from Britain's 25 new rail companies bear out what many critics of privatisation have long insisted: today's trains arrive late far more often than they used to, and reliability, instead of improving, is getting worse. For the last quarter of last year delays were up 17 per cent over the same period in 1996. On some franchises 22 per cent of the trains arrived late. And only a handful of the train operating companies actually improved their punctuality.

The figures are particularly disappointing because they show that it is the railway operators, increasingly, who are at fault. Railtrack used to account for at least 70 per cent of all the hold-ups, and claimed that many of these were caused by the massive investment now pouring into improvements in signalling, electrification and permanent way. Now the track accounts for only six out of every 10 hold-ups, and the companies are themselves to blame for the rest.

No one can blame the weather over the last three months: leaf-fall was normal, there was none of the wrong sort of snow and the gales and floods did not cause trouble until the new year. The real fault seems to lie in the companies' attempts to cut corners to improve profitability. Those which sacked too many staff have been caught short by illness, holidays and the unexpected. Too often passengers fume in the terminus as the loudspeaker announces that "we are awaiting a member of the train crew". Operators have also tried to save rolling-stock leasing fees by reducing the number of coaches. It then takes far longer for passengers to get in and out of overcrowded trains, thus leading to cumulative delays along the line. Figures show that the operators of the commuter lines into London are by far the worst offenders.

What can be done to cut the delays? The obvious answer is to strengthen the hand of the rail regulators — as John Prescott is ready to do in his forthcoming transport White Paper. Railways respond to market discipline when they are properly competitive; but many franchises have monopoly power, particularly in commuter markets, and passengers have little way of making their grievances felt. Privatisation has shown that not only must the regulator and franchise director be tough, but they must be ready to penalise companies failing to fulfil their minimum guaranteed standards heavily enough to force immediate action. A million pound fine means nothing to a company receiving tens of millions in public subsidy. This may seem a harsh price to pay for being a few minutes late. But punctuality is more than the politeness of princes: it is the essence of any transport system on which the economy depends.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

UN 'power failure' on human rights

From Lord Carrington

Sir, The announcement of the Foreign Secretary's European initiative (report and letters, January 7) in response to the appalling massacres in Algeria, whilst commendable, also serves to make a different point. In recent times it has become grimly clear that the international community is experiencing a power failure.

We see gross infringement of human rights in Rwanda, Bosnia, Burundi or, now, in Algeria. We see blatant and persistent flouting of Security Council resolutions by Iraq. The credibility of the United Nations Security Council, which dipped precipitously in 1997, promises to sag further in 1998 if steps are not taken to restore the will and to provide the means to enforce international security.

The two are interconnected: if people see no means readily available, they may feel it not worth the effort to try.

A useful starting point would be the proposals on Council decision-making, economic sanctions, military enforcement and regional initiatives put forward by an international task force in *Words to Deeds: Strengthening the UN's Enforcement Capabilities*, a report to be released tomorrow at Chatham House and on Friday in Paris.

I hope that the Government will make use of this report in its efforts to bolster the efficacy of the Security Council in the new year.

Yours faithfully,
CARRINGTON
(Chairman, International Task Force on Security Council Peace Enforcement),
32a Ovington Square, SW3 1LR.
January 7.

Fighting fit

From Captain John P. Speller, RN (retd)

Sir, I started reading Michael Evans's article ("Fighting fit for the next century", December 29) in a spirit of optimism, encouraged by the central quote that "the Forces are tired of being cut back without policy direction". On this point he is correct, and I hoped that the thrust of his message would be the need for policies to drive capabilities, rather than the other (traditional) way round. I was disappointed.

What is needed for the next 15 years is not "a strategy that focuses on Britain's military strengths" (by definition an extension of the status quo, albeit acknowledging the quality of our servicemen) but a review of Britain's defence requirements from the bottom up. Thus, one cannot start with "packages" consisting of "a carrier-based mixed air group" or an "expenditionary package ... of troops and tanks"; these are what are supposed to be derived from the review.

Incidentally, Mr Evans may be correct when he brushes aside any future threat to the United Kingdom in a couple of sentences, offering the home defence role to reserve forces, though I would have thought this to be a rather risky strategy.

Of course this review is all about saving money — defence costs a lot of money; all the more reason to ensure that the review should break with the traditional way of doing defence business.

Let's have a fresh look by asking the Government to spell out policy requirements so that the appropriate weapons can be produced, and so that the Services can at least know what they are supposed to be able to do with those weapons into the next century.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SPELLER,
Coram House,
Sandpit Lane, Bledlow HP27 9QQ.
January 1.

Forgotten heads

From Mrs Pauline Molnar

Sir, I was very surprised to read on Ceefax on December 31 that a "spokesman" had said: "There will be [in the New Year's Honours List] three knighthoods for head teachers — the first time serving heads of state schools have been included in the list."

Do women not count? My predecessor, Margaret Miles, and Mary Green, of Kidbrooke School, both serving heads, were appointed DBE nearly 30 years ago.

There was life before new Labour.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
PAULINE MOLNAR
(Head, Mayfield School, Putney, 1973-85),
106 Priory Road, Warwick CV34 4NA.
January 4.

Caught on the hop

From Mr L. C. Phillips

Sir, As a small boy I always hoped that the compositors on *The Times* would forget to change the year on January 1. But they never did.

That the computers of 1998 have now done it, albeit on the Magazine of January 3, has at last cheered that small boy's heart.

Yours faithfully,
L. C. PHILLIPS,
Rose Cottage,
Whitchurch Road,
Morcombelake, Bridport DT6 6EF.
January 3.

Dissent in Tory ranks on Hague's rebuke to 'grandees'

From Sir Dennis Walters

Sir, It may be that we should never join the EMU (letters, January 6): there are respectable arguments for not doing so. It may be that the system will collapse at birth and that there will be no need for the British Government to take such a momentous decision.

Alternatively it could be right to join in the first wave and influence the formative stages of the Union. We have in the past suffered badly from refusing to be in at the start: Britain's decision not to participate at the Messina conference of 1955 was a blunder of historic proportions. We then missed the chance of making the common market which followed much as we might have wanted it to be.

It could be right to wait and see for a while how things develop and then decide whether it is an essential British interest to join or preferable not to do so. The Government will have to consider these alternatives before recommending a course of action to the British people.

An opposition party, particularly one facing a newly elected Government with a majority of 177, has no need to commit itself now one way or the other. To establish an arbitrary period of time, in this instance ten years, for not joining and as a result to ensure that a painful, electorally damaging, prolonged and, in the circumstances, unnecessary public quarrel will take place within its ranks is not wise.

The sooner the Conservative leadership recognises this fact the better it will be for the future of our party and for its chances of returning to government in the not too far distant future.

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS WALTERS,
43 Royal Avenue, SW3 4QE.
January 7.

From Sir Raymond Whitney, MP for Wycombe (Conservative)

Sir, William Hague's response to the letter from Lord Howe and 12 other senior members of the Conservative Party was both surprising and regrettable. Talk of "blackmail" and "ransom" suggests he is not prepared to take on the powerful intellectual case set out by the Howe group.

Because they are older and more experienced than Mr Hague does not mean that they are wrong — nor that they are about to walk out.

Mr Hague must not be misled into believing that the anti-Europeanism of the current crop of young fogeys who support him is an accurate reflection of the younger generation. It is not surprising that many of our younger parliamentary colleagues who are unhappy about the Shadow Cabinet's decision effectively to rule out Britain's membership of EMU for at least nine or ten years are keeping their heads down.

We look forward to being told how the views of the national party are to be ascertained. Certainly I have detected only a minority in sympathy with the Shadow Cabinet line, which is unsurprising given that in our recent leadership election Ken Clarke was the candidate overwhelmingly favoured by our supporters.

In setting out his own position I hope that William Hague will focus not only on the risks of the EMU project (which he does very effectively) but also on the benefits of our membership and the dangers of exclusion (about which he says very little).

Yours sincerely,
RAY WHITNEY,
House of Commons.
January 7.

From Mrs Edwina Currie

Sir, The action of the "Tory grandees" in making it clear that many in the party are still firmly pro-Europe is to be applauded.

Twenty-five years ago it was the Conservatives who led our entry into what has become the greatest association of free peoples the world has ever seen. Had we conquered our fear of the unknown earlier, we might have joined at the start and benefited for longer. The same now goes for the single currency.

The last French banknote has been printed. In March, the last French franc coin will be minted and production will switch to the euro. French banks have begun issuing customer statements in both currencies. In 11 countries, our closest trading partners, attention has turned to the practical details. Meanwhile, we're still agonising over "if".

You describe William Hague's policy (leading article, January 6) as keeping options genuinely open and retaining Britain's "freedom to say no should no turn out to be the right response". With respect, that was the policy this time last year. In the autumn the new Tory leader changed it, to rule out acceptance of the euro within ten years — whether it proves good for this country or not.

Either that's politics by blindfold, or it includes a cynical expectation of a future U-turn. Neither policy is wise. Nor are they vote-winners. If Mr Blair can do better, he may find that on this important issue he gains all-party support.

Yours sincerely,
EDWINA CURRIE,
The Tower House,
Findern, Derby DE65 6AP.
January 7.

From Mr James M. Batterham

Sir, Lord Howe says (report, January 6) that if William Hague does not change his policy on Europe the Tories will lose the next election. He seems to be forgetting that the electorate will decide who wins.

Both parties were reluctant last May to adopt a clear stance on Europe and the single currency. I look forward to an election which gives the people a say in their future; meantime, I am glad that the Leader of the Opposition is fulfilling this role on issues of such importance.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. BATTERHAM,
16 Balmoral Road,
Pilgrims Hatch,
Brentwood, Essex CM15 9PN.
January 6.

Languages in decline

From Mrs C. M. A. Blake

Sir, Having read (report, January 3) of the decline in the numbers of students taking up modern languages at university, I wonder if this could in part be due to changing requirements of the A-level course.

The girls I teach love to read French literature — poetry and plays included. They also enjoy challenging literary translation, where care and ingenuity are required to get the sound just right — an exercise in using their own language as well as the target one.

These interests are less well catered for, since only two set books are required this year, compared with three last year at my school, and the language papers are based for the most part on contemporary society in France, with only one eighth of the whole examination being devoted to literature and civilisation.

I would suggest that we have things in the wrong order and that an immersion in the civilisation and literature of a country brings enthusiasm and an understanding of that country and very naturally develops into interest in contemporary life and all the problems facing society today.

Yours faithfully,
C. M. A. BLAKE,
271 Lonsdale Road, SW13 9QL.
January 4.

From Mr Howard G. Allen

Sir, Your report on the decline in the popularity of languages among school pupils seems to suggest that languages may soon join mathematics, English grammar and science in limbo.

This prompts the question: What do pupils actually do in all those years at school?

Yours etc.
HOWARD G. ALLEN,
38 Glenwood Avenue,
Bassett, Southampton,
Hampshire SO16 3QA.
xsc40@dial.pipex.com
January 3.

From Mr C. Victor Green

Sir, Two years ago the local cable TV service (United Artists) relayed two channels of live German television broadcasts. Now, taken over by a larger company (Telewest Communications), this has been reduced to about a third of a channel.

Cable companies should use their monopoly position responsibly to relay more European television: even foreign advertisements can interest students.

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR GREEN,
5a Cavendish Road,
Sutton, Surrey SM2 5EX.
vic@vicgreen.demon.co.uk
January 4.

Musical inspiration

From Mrs Allison Walker-Morecroft

Sir, I wish that your otherwise excellent obituary of Herrick Bunney (January 1) had given prominence to perhaps his most important contribution to the British Federation of Festivals for Music, Speech and Dance: thousands of young people benefited from his wit, his astute comments and, above all, his encouragement.

I remember one wonderful moment, at the time when the miniskirt was with us first time round. H. B. caused great merriment when he prefaced his adjudication of a young girls' choir with: "Ladies and Gentlemen, the miniskirt has changed the face of choral singing."

Yours etc.
ALLISON WALKER-MORECROFT,
47 Colman Road,
Norwich, Norfolk NR4 7AN.

Motson's 'own goal'

From Mr John Towers

Sir, Let others argue about the racist nature of John Motson's remarks (letters, January 7).

I want to know why the BBC licence payer is forking out £140,000 per annum for someone who commentates on a football match no more than once or twice a week and apparently has difficulty telling one footballer from another.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TOWERS,
80 Park Road, Bolton BL1 4RQ.
January 7.

From Mr James Foster

Sir, I don't think Motson is worth £140,000 a year: these commentators all sound the same to me.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES FOSTER,
207 Lennard Road,
Beckenham, Kent BR3 1QN.
jamfos@aol.com

Hunting for fungi

From the Owner of The Neal Street Restaurant

Sir, I hope the Government's proposed guidelines on picking wild mushrooms (report and pictures, January 3) will recognise that woods and forests have always been man's hunting ground. To make them into tidy "theme parks" would be contrary to the future understanding between the human and his environment.

The Government needs to inform and educate people about the subject, as your report suggests. Wild mushrooms do not decrease with picking: as long as they are fairly mature they will have dropped their spores and the fine network of mycelium working underground will not be disturbed.

They should be cut carefully and carried home in a basket to help distribute the spores further. Any decrease in wild mushrooms, edible and poisonous, is more likely to be due to pollution, not picking.

Commercial picking has always occurred in other countries, but in many areas of Britain it is a cottage industry (as you stated), giving some people a modest living.

Why should the people of Great Britain be denied the pleasure that a large number of their European neighbours indulge in?

Yours sincerely,
ANTONIO CARLUCCIO,
Owner,
The Neal Street Restaurant,
26 Neal Street, WC2H 9PS.
January 6.

Smoked out

From Mr O. P. Hassell

Sir, My blood pressure rose alarmingly after reading your report of January 3 that a burglar, smoked out by a DNA clue, and responsible for a string of previous offences, had received nothing more onerous than a conditional discharge from Exmouth magistrates after stealing more than £1,300 in Budleigh Salterton.

Today I read that a campaign to improve the image of the law may result in the appointment of court press officers.

I fear that spin-doctors are more likely to exacerbate my condition than alleviate it, but I would love to hear a justification of so light a penalty.

Yours sincerely,
PETER HASSELL,
Knapton, 4 Fountain Hill,
Budleigh Salterton, Devon EX9 6BX.
January 6.

From Mr Rowland Darbyshire

Sir, You report that a Mr Chaffe was caught, following a burglary, by the identification of his DNA on a discarded cigarette end. This demonstrates, once again, the dangers of cigarette smoking, not to mention the benefits of tidy habits.

If he had been a pipe smoker, not only would he have avoided detection, but he would not have had time to burgle in the first place, being too busy cleaning, filling, tamping and lighting before enjoying the pleasant aroma of the tobacco of his choice.

Yours in a pleasant haze,
ROWLAND DARBYSHIRE,
22 Thornton Gate, Thornton,
Cleveleys, Lancashire FY5 1JN.
106412.2457@compuserve.com

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

In search of Mr W. H.

From Mr Miles Harper

Sir, Like Mr Graham Clark (letter, January 3), I have to question Dr John Rollett's conclusion as to the identity of the fair youth of Shakespeare's sonnets. Looking at his top cryptogram (report, December 31) I notice that a very different name is also prominently featured, and this without recourse to a second configuration.

I submit therefore that the fair youth of the sonnets is none other than the Australian leg spinner, Shane Warne. Not only is he unquestionably blond, but one can hardly ignore the cricketing references throughout the sonnets. Lines such as "no pace perceiv'd" and "mine eye may be deceiv'd" from sonnet CIV could surely refer to no other cricketer.

Sonnet VI features the words "ten for one", a clear celebration of a typical Warne analysis, whilst CXXVIII talks of "the tender inward of thy hand" — obviously a reference to Warne's much-feared back-of-the-hand delivery.

Yours faithfully,
MILES HARPER,
36 Fortnam Road, N19 3NR.
January 5.

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK

January 7: Sir James Gobbo (*Governor of Victoria*) and Lady Gobbo have left Sandringham House.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

January 7: The Prince Edward, President, this evening attended a performance of *Bugsy Malone* given by the National Youth Music Theatre at the Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London WI.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

January 7: The Princess Royal, President. The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, this morning visited the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Carers Centre, the Vassall Centre, Gill Avenue, Fishponds, Bristol, and afterwards attended a Carers Day Reception at the Conference Hall, the Council House, College Green, Bristol, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Bristol (Mr James Tidmarsh).

Her Royal Highness, Honorary Fellow, this evening gave a Lecture and attended a Reception at the Royal Society of Medicine, Wimpole Street, London WI.

Birthdays today

Miss Shirley Bassey, singer, 61; Mr David Bowie, singer and actor, 51; Mr S.G. Cameron, former chairman, Gallaher, 74; Mr Phil Hall, Editor, *News of the World*, 43; Professor Stephen Hawking, *CH, FRS*, theoretical physicist, 56.

Lord Hollenden, 84; the Right Rev E.G. Knapp-Fisher, former Archdeacon of Westminster, 83; Professor Sir Robert May, FRS, zoologist, 62; Air Commodore Joan Metcalfe, former director, RAF Nursing Services, 75; Mr Ron Moody, actor, 74; Mrs I.M. Read, MEP, 59; Professor W.B. Reddaway, FBA, economist, 85.

Miss Galina Ulanova, prima ballerina, 88; Sir Geoffrey Whalen, former deputy chairman, Peugeot Talbot Motor Company, 62; Professor A.G. Wilson, FBA, Vice-Chancellor, Leeds University, 59; Mr Andrew Winckler, chief executive, Securities and Investments Board, 49.

Luncheon

Wax Chandlers' Company

The Lord Mayor, accompanied by Mr Alderman and Sheriff Michael Oliver and the Sword Bearer, was the guest of honour at a luncheon given by the Master, Wardens and Court of Assistants of the Wax Chandlers' Company yesterday at Wax Chandlers' Hall. Mr Michael Harvey, Master, presented cheques to the Lord Mayor in support of his charity appeals for the British Diabetic Association and NCH Action for Children. The Lord Mayor presented the Wax Chandlers' prize to Mrs Bridget Beattie for the best paper submitted to the British Bee Keepers' Association in their 1997 senior examination.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Philip Astley, theatre manager, Newcastle-under-Lyme, 1742; Alfred Wallace, naturalist, Usk, Monmouthshire, 1823; Wilkie Collins, novelist, London, 1824; Hans von Bulow, pianist and conductor, Dresden, 1830; Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, painter, The Netherlands, 1836; John Curtin, Australian Prime Minister 1941-45, Creswick, Victoria, 1885; Solomon Bandaranaike, Prime Minister of Ceylon 1956-59, Colombo, 1899; Elvis Presley, singer and actor, Tupelo, Mississippi, 1935; Dennis Wheatley, novelist, 1897.

DEATHS: Edgar, King of Scotland reigned 1097-1107, Edinburgh Castle, 1107; Giotto, painter, Florence, 1337; Galileo Galilei, mathematician and astronomer, Arcetri, Italy, 1642; Arcangello Corelli, composer, Rome, 1713; John Baskerville, typographer and printer, London, 1775; Eli Whitney, pioneer of the cotton gin, New Haven, Connecticut, 1825; Paul Verlaine, poet, Paris, 1895; Robert Stephenson Baden-Powell, 1st Baron Baden-Powell, general and founder of the Boy Scouts, Nyeri, Kenya, 1941; Richard Tauber, tenor, London, 1948; Kurt Schwitters, painter, Little Langdale, Cumbria, 1948; Zhou Enlai, Premier of the People's Republic of China 1949-76, Beijing, 1976.

Rationing of butter, bacon and sugar began, 1940.

General Charles de Gaulle was proclaimed President of the French Republic, 1959.

Fire damaged seven floors of the Empire State Building, New York, 1963.

Spain ended its siege of Gibraltar and reopened the frontier, 1982.


JAY WILLIAMS

Robin Bryer, the parochial church council secretary: "You could say this was a case of divine intervention"

Church saved by inspirational link

A CHURCHWORKER'S inspired idea will help to save a medieval church from closure by linking it to the latest technology.

Robin Bryer, the parochial church council secretary of All Saints Church in Closworth, Somerset, came up with the suggestion of letting Mercury Personal Communications erect antennae on top of the 13th-century tower. The deal means that the church will receive £38,000, the amount that it needs to carry out extensive restoration work and keep it open.

Mr Bryer said: ***"You could say this was a case of divine intervention. There was to be a free-standing aerial not far away and I came up with this option that helps us and Mercury. The antennae will protrude only two metres above the church pinnacles, which is a small price to pay to keep this beautiful building open." Although a handful of residents in the village opposed the plan, the parish meeting gave it its unanimous support. South Somerset district councillors have now to decide whether to approve the scheme.***

Mercury said: **"We always prefer to put aerials on existing buildings rather than erecting a mast. We are pleased to work with local people and this scheme has worked out well for all concerned."**

Private prescription to clean city streets

THE job of keeping the streets of Edinburgh clean has been handed over to a businessman.

The city council has seconded Richard Flynn, manager of Boots the Chemists in Princes Street, as a commercial manager for the city centre.

Part of his remit in the year-long post, which is being wholly funded by his employer, will be to tackle environmental issues — including finding ways to make sure the streets are kept clean.

Mr Flynn will also be charged with reinforcing Edinburgh's status as a retail and financial centre, a major tourist destination and a city of festivals.

"The role is the first of its kind," Mr Flynn said yesterday. "It will explore new opportunities and innovative ways of working. I hope the model we develop here could be adapted readily by other towns and cities."

The decision to appoint a commercial manager was prompted by a growing need to find new methods of funding city-centre projects. Mr Flynn's role will also entail finding new methods of raising finance from private and public partnerships.

Mr Flynn is also chairman of the Princes Street Association.

Shaun Boney, head of property and planning with Boots, said: "We see this move as a positive step towards enhancing the retail environment within Edinburgh."

Latest wills

Eric Ronald Guest, of London, SW19, left estate valued at £668,178 net.

Ann Jacqueline Leon, of Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, left estate valued at £4,157,702 net.

Mary Winifred Davidson, of Repton, Derbyshire, left estate valued at £1,014,814 net.
She left £20,000 each to the parochial church councils of Egginton and Repton; £10,000 each to the vicar's general fund for the poor and needy and to Repton Village Hall committee; £5,000 each to Centrepoint Emergency Services for Young People, *JOGS the Association of* Guides and Scouts in Repton, and Repton United Reform Church; £2,000 to the National Trust; £1,000 each to Our Dumb Friends League, PDSA, St Christopher's and the *Repton Abbeyfields Society*.

Leslie Palmer, of Penarth, South Glamorgan, left estate valued at £989,697 net.

Muhsin Jabbar Nasir, of Didsbury, Manchester, left estate valued at £1,160,294 net.

Arthur Mortimer Jackson, retired bank manager, of Sale, Cheshire, left estate valued at £1,313,305 net.
He left an equal share in his residuary estate to the British Heart Foundation and Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research.

Stanley Walter Guy, of Three Legged Cross, Wimborne, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,135,261 net.

Ashwin Hirji Ruparell, of Liverpool, left estate valued at £1,528,399 net.

Shirley Ann Jones, of Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, left estate valued at £1,151,211 net.
She left £5,000 to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

Peter William Heath, of Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex, left estate valued at £2,788,542 net.

Alastair Giles Mann, of Tetsworth, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £1,108,723 net.
He left £1,000 to St Andrew's church, Wheatfield.

Ronald Frederick William Hervey, of Virginia Water, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,877,185 net.

School news

Brentwood School (HMC)

The Lent Term begins today. Entrance Exams for the Main and Preparatory Schools take place on January 31. Half Term is from February 13 to February 23. The Junior School production of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* will be performed from March 18 to 21. A Chamber concert takes place on Thursday, February 12. The Old Brentwoods Society Dinner will be held on March 27.

Brownsgrove School

School convenes today for the Lent term. The Choral Society will perform *A German Requiem* by Brahms and a selection of opera choruses in the Memorial Chapel *on Thursday, March 19: Term* ends on Friday, March 20.

Chigwell School

Lent Term at Chigwell School starts today and ends on Friday, March 27. Entrance examinations for 11 year age group entry and Harsnett Scholarship examinations will be held on Saturday, January 17, and for 7 to 10 year age groups on Saturday, January 10. The Music Scholarship auditions will be held on Friday and Saturday, January 30 and 31. The Lent Term Concert will take place on Thursday, February 5. Old Chigwellians who wish to attend the *Shrove* Tuesday Supper on February 24, should contact the Headmaster's Secretary.

Queen's College, London

Term began on Wednesday, January 7. Half term is from Monday, February 16, to Friday, February 20, inclusive. The programme of events to celebrate the College Sesquicentenary continues this term, with a lecture on Katherine Mansfield, given by Claire Tomalin and chaired by Professor *Hermione Lee, on* Tuesday, January 27, at 6.45pm. Term ends on *Thursday, March 26, after the* Founder's Day service at Westminster Abbey. We are still keen to hear from any old girls not yet in touch with the College. Please contact Janice Lavery on 0171 637 1260.

St Dunstan's College

The Lent Term begins today and Mr Ian Davies takes up his post as the eighth Headmaster of the College. The Lower School play this term is *The Witch and the Magic Mountain* and all the Lower Sixth depart for a week in Strasbourg on February 23. The Armstrong Society dinner will be held on March 13 and the House Arts Festival on March 24. The Old Dunstonian Association London Luncheon will be held on February 14.
St Dunstan's College exists for the education of children.

St John's School, Leatherhead

The Lent Term begins today at St John's School, Leatherhead. Louise Young is School Captain, Ian Howard is Captain of Association Football and Debbie Hyde is Captain of Netball. The Sixth Form play *The Deep Blue Sea* by Terence Rattigan, will be performed on February 26 and 27 and the School play *The Taming of the Shrew* by William Shakespeare, will be performed on March 11, 12 and 13. Choral Evensong is at 5.30pm on Tuesday, March 10, and the School Concert is at *7.30pm on Sunday, March 15.*

Dinner

Royal Society of Medicine

The Princess Royal delivered a lecture to the Royal Society of Medicine last night at 1 Wimpole Street and was presented with the Honorary Fellowship of the Society by Sir Christopher Paine, President.

Sir Christopher and Lady Paine were the hosts at a dinner that was held afterwards.

Among the guests were: Lord and Lady Soulsby of Swaffham Prior, Lord and Lady Charteris of Amisfield, Lord and Lady McColl of Dulwich, Sir James Harvie-Watt, Sir [illegible] and Lady Wolstenholme.

Sir Gordon and Lady Robson, Sir Christopher Booth, Sir David and Lady Williams, Sir George and Lady Pinker, Sir Donald and Lady Harrison, Sir Norman and Lady Browse, Sir Graham and Lady Hart and Dr I Hutchison and Baroness Kennedy of the Shaws.

Requiem Mass

George Malcolm

Cardinal Hume will celebrate a solemn sung Requiem Mass for George Malcolm, CBE, on Thursday, January 29, at 11am in Westminster Cathedral. All are welcome — no tickets required. Donations are invited towards the George Malcolm Memorial Fund, c/o The Music Department, 42 Francis Street, London, SW1P 1QW.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr W.G. Bailey and Miss A.J. Banks
The engagement is announced between William, youngest son of Dr and Mrs Grenfell Bailey, of Sonning, Berkshire, and Alexa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Banks, of Barnes, London.

Mr R.K. Blamey and Miss R.E. Willets
The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr David Blamey, of Lacock, Wiltshire, and Mrs John Brunel Cohen, of Chelsea, London, and Ruth, elder daughter of Mr Frank Willets, of Poole, Dorset, and Mrs Freda Willets, of Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire.

Mr T.G. Brewer and Miss N.R. Whitley
The engagement is announced between Thomas, son of Mr and Mrs D.G. Brewer, of Wonersh, Surrey, and Naomi, daughter of the Rev J.W. and Mrs Whitley, of Litherland, Liverpool.

Mr J.R.de B.le B. de Broe-Fergusson and Miss A.M.du P. Wrightson
The engagement is announced between James, son of Brigadier and Mrs Edward de Broe-Fergusson, of Marnock, Somerset, and Maria, daughter of Mrs David Wrightson, of Wells, Somerset, and the late Mr D.G. Wrightson, of Yalding, Kent.

Mr P.A.C. Catterall and Miss P.J. Avis
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Catterall, of Swiss Cottage, London, and Penny, daughter of Mr Roger Avis, of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, and Mrs Chris Williamson, of Diss, Norfolk.

Mr T.W.D. Cringle and Miss S.L. Jones
The engagement is announced between Thomas, son of Mr and Mrs P.M. Cringle, of Burnham Market, Norfolk, and Susannah, daughter of Mrs C.R. Suckling and stepdaughter of Mr A.B. Suckling, QC, of Docking, Norfolk.

Dr P.D. Eakins and Miss K.A. Riches
The engagement is announced between Patrick, son of Dr and Mrs Douglas Eakins, of King's Lynn, Norfolk, and Katharine, daughter of the late Rev Claude Riches and of Mrs Sue Riches, of Ashdon, Essex.

Mr D.J. Ewins and Miss T-A.L. Perschke
The engagement is announced between David James, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter Ewins, of Tilford, Surrey, and Tiffany-Alice Letitia, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Perschke, of Petworth, West Sussex.

Mr R.J.A. Fane and Miss T.C. Dowling
The engagement is announced between Rupert, son of the late Mr Vere Fane and of Mrs Vere Fane, of Knightsbridge, London, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jean Dowling, of Sydney, Australia.

Lieutenant P.T. Hambly, RN, and Dr V. Ohlsson
The engagement is announced between Patrick, elder son of Mrs Hambly and the late Dr M. Hambly, of Mylor Bridge, Cornwall, and Vicky, only daughter of Mr and Mrs N.A. Ohlsson, of Jersey.

Mr A.D.R. Livingstone and Princess Cristina Tsikotsou
The engagement is announced between Sandy, younger son of Baron and Madam Livingstone of Bachuil, Isle of Eismore, and Cristina, daughter of Prince and Princess Charles Tsikotsou.

Mr P.C. McGahan and Miss J.M. Calemard
The engagement is announced between Peter, youngest son of Mrs B.M. McGahan, and the late Mr James Henry Francis McGahan, MBE, of Lindfield, West Sussex, and Johanna, youngest daughter of Mr A. Calemard, of Montaut, France, and Ms Anne Nielson, of Pau, France.

Mr K. Markham and Miss F.A. Juckes
The engagement is announced between Kevin, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Markham, of Cabinteely, Co Dublin, and Fiona, elder daughter of Mrs Hugh Juckes and the late Dr Hugh Juckes, of Newnham, Gloucestershire.

Mr S.R. Newton and Miss H.C. James
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Clive Newton, of Raunds, Northamptonshire, and Heather, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael James, of Hazlemere, Buckinghamshire.

Mr S.N. Pendry and Miss C.M.A. Holt
The engagement is announced between Shaun, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Brian Pendry, of Ardess, Co Fermanagh, and Christine, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J.A.N.M. Holt, of Draperstown, Co Londonderry.

Mr C.D. Pratt and Miss F.J. Humphreys
The engagement is announced between Mr Christopher Pratt, of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, and Miss Francesca Humphreys, of Notting Hill Gate, London.

Mr S.A. Radcliffe and Miss S.V. Kellett
The engagement is announced between Stewart, younger son of Dr and Mrs Samuel Radcliffe, of Redditch, Worcestershire, and Sarah, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Roger Kellett, of Edinburgh.

Mr D. Redvers and Miss L. Montgomery
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs John Reivers, of Hartpury, Gloucestershire, and Laura, youngest daughter of Sir David and Lady Montgomery, of The Home Farm, Kinross.

Mr M. Robinson and Miss J.M. Buckhurst
The engagement is announced between Malcolm, son of Mr and Mrs Roy Robinson, of Slinfold, West Sussex, and Jemma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Buckhurst, of Clapham, London.

Mr J.P.W. Stuel and Miss R.C.E. Cunningham
The engagement is announced between Jamie, younger son of Mr and Mrs Janfred Stuel, of Ashendon, Buckinghamshire, and Rachel, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael J. Cunningham, of Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria.

Mr A.J. Turner and Miss R.K. Grapes
The engagement is announced between Alastair, son of the late Mr David Turner, and of Mrs Turner, of Brighton, and Rebecca, daughter of Mr David Grapes, of Norwich, and Mrs Rachael Grapes, of Broglie, France.

Mr M.P. Tyler and Miss T.C.P. Meakin
The engagement is announced between Michael, only son of Mr and Mrs Peter Tyler, of Colinton, Edinburgh, and Tabitha, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Meakin, of East Sheen, London.

Mr N.P. Wilson and Miss H.H. Corcut
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, elder son of Mr and Mrs Peter Wilson, of Vale Court, Colerne, Wiltshire, and Hannah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Corcut, of Green Ridge, Brighton, Sussex.

Marriage

Mr J.M.O. Walker and Miss L.M.M. Tulloch

The marriage took place on Saturday, January 3, 1998, in Symington Parish Church, of Mr James Walker, son of Mr and Mrs Archibald Walker, to Miss Leesa Tulloch, daughter of Mr and Mrs Iain Tulloch. The Rev Margaret Whyte officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Rebecca Donaldson, Hector Tulloch and Oliver Greenall. Mrs Peter Bailey was best woman.

A reception was held at Newark Castle and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Griff Rhys Jones. He was seen in a shop in Oxford Street yesterday,

sort — has just described himself as a "practising Christian". He has

stand on a chair, don't tell the newspapers. "We've put down poi-

"The blasted video machine hasn't recorded the football"

gainer that the dispossessed two were invited down to the Cabinet Office for a "personal apology".

She may get a bit of a shock."

JASPER GERRARD

contribution to Britain in Europe, published today with a foreword by (Stratagems, £4.99).

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and the *Spirit is God's gift to you?* You do not belong to yourselves; you were bought at a price. I Corinthians 6 :19,20.

BIRTHS

ABELA - On January 5th 1998 at The Portland Hospital, to Lamia (née Moumcaidi) and Gilbert, a daughter, Julia.

ATKINS - On 30th December at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, to William and Midori (née Tanaka), a daughter, Cecilia Kei, a sister for Benjamin.

BEARD - On December 24th, to *Jojo (née Haslam)* and Rowan, a daughter, Justine Harriet.

BENNELL - On Monday 15th December 1997 at St Mary's, Paddington, to George and Nicola (née Messenger), a son, a first cousin for Flynn and Claire.

BENNELL - On Thursday 4th December 1997 at Tsan Yuk Hospital, Hong Kong, to Sam and Angie (née Patterson), a son, Flynn Shan.

DUNSDALE - On 30th December 1997 in Norwich, Norfolk, to Christopher and Anna, a daughter, Emma Claire.

ELLIOTT - On December 19th, to Vanessa (née Holland) and Anthony, a daughter, Lucy Persephone.

FRANCE - *To Rebecca* and Alastair, God's gift of a son, Christopher Edward, a brother for Katherine, on 4th January 1998 at the Rosie Maternity Hospital, Cambridge.

HARKEN - On 17th December 1997, to Antonia (née Skortowe) and Andrew, a daughter, Katherine Rose.

KENTWRIGHT - On December 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Samantha (née Crosby) and Tom Twins, a son and a daughter Jake and Grace.

KNIGHT - On January 7th 1998 in Margate (South Africa), to Jessica (née Cowell) and John, a son, Marcus Alexander, a brother for Hannah and Matthew.

BIRTHS

O'DONNELL - On January 1st, to Robin and Elizabeth (née Coleman), a daughter, Heather Rosemary, a sister for Timothy.

PERRIN - On January 5th at The Portland Hospital, to Elizabeth (née Ashton) and Michael, a son, Nicholas David, a brother for Emily.

REDPATH - On January 4th at The Portland Hospital, to Philippa (née Dimdal) and Fabian, a son, Alasdair.

THURSFIELD - On January 4th, to Jacqueline (née Stagg) and Peter, a daughter, Harriet Alice.

WHITTINGHAM - On December 30th at The Portland Hospital, to Angela Sophie and Monty, a son.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

PYCK - On 8th January 1923, in Hove, Charles and Beryl (née Hobbs) of Lindfield, West Sussex.

DEATHS

BLINCOW - Ronald James (Peter). Very sadly for us, but mercifully for Peter who died on Thursday, 25th December, 1997, aged 77 years, peacefully at home after a long and brave fight of many years against a cruel illness, borne with great fortitude. Dearly loved husband of Joan, loving father of Peter and Nigel, grandfather of Phillip and Linda, dear brother to Peggy. The Funeral Service took place at St Richard's Church, Aldwick on 7th January, 1998, followed by cremation at Chichester, before later interment at Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip. Donations, if desired, to Multiple Sclerosis Society, 25 Effie Road, Fulham, London, SW6. Tele: 0171-736-6267 please.

BOSHER-GANT - Norman died peacefully in hospital aged 84 years. Cremation Service private but Thanksgiving Service at St Luke's Church, Bentley Road, Sevenoaks, on Saturday January 17th at 11.30 am. Donations in his memory if desired to The John MacMurray Fellowship c/o Tennents c/o Francis Chappell & Sons, 27 London Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1AR, tel: (01732) 450203.

BURROUGH - Wing-Commander Richard James (Jock) DFC died peacefully on 2nd January 1998 aged 83 years. Beloved husband of Veronica (née Stewart-Gordon) and greatly loved father of Gina, Letitia, Deborah and Priscilla. Funeral Service to be held on Thursday, 15th January 1998 at 2 pm in St Barnabas Church, Swanmore, Hampshire. Family flowers only please. Enquiries to Thomas Pink and Son, Bishop's Waltham. Tel: 01489-892640.

BUTLER - Katherine Mary on Monday January 5th 1998 at Wareham, Dorset. Daughter of Sir Neville and Lady Butler, dear sister of Oonah Elliott. Thanksgiving Service in the Church of Lady St Mary, Wareham, Dorset on Friday January 16th at 12 noon. Donations if desired for the Lady St Mary Church Preservation Trust, may be sent to Albert Marsh (Funeral Directors) Ltd, St Michaels Road, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4QU. Tel: 01929-552107.

CHERRY - Philip died aged 62 on 4th January 1998. Funeral St John's Church, Bramsgrove, Tuesday January 13th 2 pm. Loved by Hazel, Claire and Kay.

CLARK - Winifred Daisy, widow of Harold Frederick Clark, CLE and mother of Penelope Hicks and Margaret Carswell, died peacefully on 4th January 1998, aged 92.

CLUTTERBUCK - Richard Lewis, CB, OBE, PhD, FICE, Major General, late of the Royal Engineers, and the Department of Pollution at Exeter University. Died peacefully in his sleep at home in Devon on Tuesday 6th January 1998 aged 80. Husband of Angela, father of Peter, Robin and Julian; grandfather of Robert, Rachel and Michael. Funeral on Wednesday 14th January at 2 pm at Thorverton, Devon. Donations if desired, to the British Heart Foundation c/o Leroy Funeral Services, 10 Alphington Road, Exeter EX2 8HE; phone 01392-256635.

COWELL - Kenneth Cowell passed away 5th January 1998 at The Royal London Hospital, Whitechapel, aged 71 years. Funeral to be held on Friday 16th January 1998. Service at St Giles' Church, Bethlem EC2 at 12.30 pm, followed by cremation at City of London Crematorium, Aldersbrook Road, E12 at 2 pm. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers to Macmillan Cancer Relief, The Royal London.

DUNN - Joan Johnstone Elder. Beloved wife of the late Bill Dunn, dearly loved mother of Robin and Jilda, sister to Ben and mother-in-law of Gill and Jusy. Specially loved Granny Jo-Jo to Jessica, Jamie, Abigail, Katherine and Rebecca. Peacefully in Mayday University Hospital, Croydon on Monday January 5th 1998, aged 82. Rusty Roses. Funeral Service at Woodley Baptist Church, London Vale Centre, Hurricane Way, Woodley, Reading, Berkshire, 1230pm Wednesday January 14th. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to CARE Trust, 53 Romney Street, London SW1P 3RF.

ELMERON-WHITE - Myles, peacefully in Cambridge on Tuesday January 6th 1998 aged 82 years. Funeral Service at Cambridge Crematorium on Thursday January 15th at 3 pm. No flowers please, but donations if desired, to The Friends of the Hinchliffe Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RR.

GLOVER - Douglas Haig of Swadley, Derbyshire. Passed away in hospital on January 5th 1998 aged 81 years. Beloved husband of the late Kathleen (Kay). Cherished father of John, Georgina and Annabella. Greatly adored by them, his grandchildren and many friends. Funeral Service at St John's Church, Swadley on Tuesday, January 13th at 11.30 am. Followed by cremation at Matlock Cremetorium, Derby. Flowers may be sent or donations optional, if so desired, to British Heart Foundation. Any further enquiries to Gillotts Funeral Service, 1A Abbott Street, Heanor, Derbyshire, DE75 7QD. Telephone (01773) 713921.

GRANGER - Gladys Emma peacefully on 6th January 1998 aged 90 years, dearly loved mother of Daphne and Christopher, granny of Brian, Roger, Damaris, Rowan, Rachel and Daniel. Funeral Service at St Luke's Church, Hickling, on Tuesday 13th January 1998 at 12.15 pm, followed by cremation at Loughborough Crematorium. Further enquiries J.W. Hazelwood & Son, tel: (01664) 812223.

GRANT - On 6th January 1998, Peacefully at Mansge Wood Hospital, Nigel Francis Harding aged 65 years, after a long illness borne with great dignity. Youngest son of Francis Huddleston Mack loved husband of Moyra, father of Nancy, Jenny and Timothy. Grandfather of Jack, Rupert, Sepyd, Sophie and Eli. Funeral on Wednesday 14th January at St Lawrence Church, Wormley, Herts at 2pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations if desired for Cancer Research may be sent to Rowell Funeral Service, 79 Barford Street, Haddenden EN11 8HX.

GREGORY - Philippa Charlotte (Pips) on 30th December 1997, aged 16 years, darling daughter of Robert and Cally and beloved sister of Jo. Much loved by both old and young. Held in great affection and respect by the family. Zebel. Funeral Service at St Giles Church, Hartington on Friday 9th January at 12 noon. All donations for the benefit of children.

HARVEY - Patricia Margaret on 4th January 1998 at Avonmore Nursing Home, Bognor Regis, aged 68. Funeral Service on Thursday 15th January at St Peter's & Mother Church, Pagham, Bognor Regis at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust Arundel (Slimbridge). Any enquiries to Reynolds Funeral Service, 31 High Street, Bognor Regis, tel: 01243 864745.

HARWOOD-YARNED - Phyllis Rose (née Daisy) of Godalming on New Year's Eve 1997, peacefully at Mount Alvernia Hospital, Guildford, following a long illness patiently borne. Beloved wife of Neil, mother of Joanna, mother-in-law of Gerald, loving and cherished grandmother of Georgia and William, sister of Mollie Hogg and Lilian Stutchfield, and much loved aunt of Gertrude, James and Min. Private family funeral has taken place. With deep appreciation for all the loving tenderness and care given by the staff at Mount Alvernia.

LAMBLE - Olwen (née Edwards) went to the Angels peacefully 6th aged 76. Chester Royal Infirmary Gold Medalist, SRN, GM&SRCO. Greatly missed by husband Roger, sons Barry and Dyrck and grandchildren Emma and Matthew. Cremation at Rochdale Crematorium 10.30 am Tuesday 13th January. Flowers to H. Copeland & Son, 9 Rumsley Road, Rochdale, Kent BR5 3WT.

HAYES-FITTON - Guy, peacefully on January 4th, 1998, aged 51, at Kilmarth, Cornwall. Beloved sister of Natty, Juliet, Cherry and Paul, devoted sister-in-law of George, Anthony and Michael and adored aunt of Pumpkin, Bunbey, Bubby, Pony, Kim, Mark and Shane. Requiem Mass on Saturday, January 10th at 2.00pm at Sacred Heart Abbey, Roscrea, Co Offaly. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to MacMillan Nursing Service (Cornwall), c/o Ken Newcombe's Funeral Home, Bucklers Lane, Holsbrook, St Austell PL25 3JH.

MONTAGUE-JONES - On December 28th 1997 Pamela aged 78 years, wife of the late Brig. Ronald Montague-Jones. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church on Monday January 12th at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only. For donations for Royal British Legion Bognor Branch c/o James Smith Hill, 604 Kings Road, Saltcoats, tel: (01929) 422448.

MOSS - Guy of Queen peacefully at Glenfield General Hospital, Leicester, on January 3rd 1998 in his 80th year. Dearly loved husband of Peg, father of Judy, Gerard and Elaine. The Funeral Service will be held on Friday 9th January 1998 at St Bartholomew's Parish Church, Queen at 4.15 pm followed by private cremation. No flowers by request, but donations in lieu if desired, may be sent to Abbeyfield (Loughborough) Society Ltd., Westfield Drive, Loughborough, Leicestershire. Further enquiries to Swann Funeral Service, 4 Bridge Street, Loughborough, tel: 01509 263032.

PRICE - (Tommy) Thomas Hubert, British World Speedway Champion 1949, peacefully on 24th December 1997, Perth, Western Australia. Much loved husband, Father and Grandfather.

NEWTON - Alice Mina (née Henry). Peacefully in Bromley Hospital on 6th January 1998. Dearly loved mother of Judith, Michael and Patrick, loving grandmother of Rachel, Daniel, Jackie, Rebecca and Toby. Funeral to be held in The Rosary Church, Bargo, Kent, on Thursday 15th January at 2 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to South Bromley Hospice Care c/o J & R Kirkland Ltd, 212 High Street, West Wickham, Kent BR4 0ND - 0181 777 4602.

NUNN - On January 6th at The Priaxge Hospital, Northallerton, Thirsk, of Sandhutton, Thirsk, North Yorkshire, Matt Jones aged 85 years, dearly loved by family missed by friends and family. Service and committal in St Leonards Church, Sandhutton, Thirsk, on Tuesday January 13th 1998 at 12.45 pm. No flowers. If desired donations in lieu to British Heart Foundation, please purchase in church.

NUTTY - Peacefully at home on 5th January 1998 Enid, MBE, very dearly loved treasured of Anne and father of Peter and Carole. Funeral St Mary's Church, Church Road, Burgess on Friday 16th January at 11.30 and afterwards at Mortimer Crematorium. No flowers please, but if desired, donations to MADA, Tyrrel Road, Bishops Park, BH6 3LA.

THORNE - Margaret Hazel peacefully at home on 5th January, beloved wife of John, mother of Jackie and Neil and grandmother of Daniel, Sophie, Christian, Georgina and Victoria. Much loved by all her family. Private funeral at All Saints Church, Sutton Bonger, on Friday 9th January.

TURVILLE - Cmdr. Owen Ralph KNVR, CBE, of Taplow, since Middlehead (formerly of Hong Kong). Dearly beloved husband of Joan and devoted father of Owen, John and Anthony. Peacefully aged 79 on Monday January 5th. Private cremation.

TYRER - John Mervyn. Died suddenly on 5th January. Much loved by Sue, their children David and Jan, and grandchildren Carys, Nia and Jacob. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. There will be a Service of Thanksgiving at Ashbury Parish Church on Monday, 12th January at 1 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to Christian Aid c/o Bishop & Sons, 5 Bridge Road, Faringdon, Oxon. SN7 7HE.

UPTON - Robin on 6th January 1998 suddenly in Spain aged 73 years. Beloved husband of Meher, father and grandfather. Advocate, teacher, raconteur, committed with affection by family and friends. Will be held privately on Friday 9th January in London.

VICKERS - Susan, peacefully on 6th January, beloved wife of Michael, and dear mother of Jamie and Phillip. Funeral at Oxford Crematorium on Friday 9th January at 9 am. No flowers, but donations if desired to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

WADSWORTH - Ronald Percy whilst staying in Waterlooville, Hampshire, aged 69 years, David Henry Wood. Funeral Service to be held at Kingston Crematorium, Bonner Hill Road, Kingston at 2.20 pm on Wednesday January 14th. Floral tributes or donations payable to either the 'London Lighthouse' or 'Princess Alice Hospice' to be sent to Mr H.C. Foster, J. Edwards & Son (Funeral Directors), 12 St Georges Walk, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO7 7TU.

WELLS - Suddenly on January 5th Andrew Arnold Lyon, much loved husband of Liz, father of Richard, Tom and Alexander. Cremation private, Wake at Middleton 12 noon Friday January 16th - all welcome. No flowers but donations if desired to The Appleton Trust Clinton Church Fund or The Congolese Village Trust (for kindnapped people) both c/o Holcrow & Sons, 6A Bridge Street, Andover, Hants SP10 1BE.

WILSON-SMITH - Jessie (née Bristol) peacefully on January 6th, beloved wife of Alan and much loved mother and grandmother. Cremation at Canford Crematorium, Wimborne, on January 14th at 12.30. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, in memory to Musicians Benevolent Fund c/o J. & J. Colwell, 1 Quaker Lane, Thornbury, Bristol.

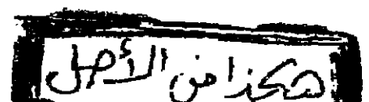
MEMORIAL SERVICES

ABBOTT - Trevor Michael. A Memorial Service will be held in the Chapel at Cranleigh School, Cranleigh, Surrey on Sunday, 25th January at 3 pm.

CRANKSHAW - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of William Michael Clifton, 4th Baron Crawshay, will be held at St Leonards Cathedral on Sunday 15th February 1998 at 2.30 pm. It would be very helpful if those travelling from a distance would ring telephone number (01580) 842225, or write to the Estate Office, Whatton House, Loughborough, LE12 5BG.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

KNIGHT - Robin James. Bush will be a Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday 27th January at 3 o'clock at Holy Trinity, Brompton, London SW7.



هكذا من الأصل

OBITUARIES

AIR MARSHAL SIR JOHN WHITLEY

Air Marshal Sir John Whitley, KBE, CB, DSO, AFC and Bar, Inspector-General of the RAF, 1959-62, died on December 26 aged 92. He was born on September 7, 1905.

Shot down over France in a bombing raid which was attacked by night fighters over the French coast, John Whitley parachuted to safety, eluded all attempts to capture him and eventually reached freedom via the Pyrenees, in an escape which is widely regarded as a classic of its type. On April 10, 1943, then a group captain and station commander of RAF Linton-on-Ouse, he was (contrary to official instructions, which were that station commanders should stay chairborne) flying as second pilot in a Halifax on a bombing raid whose target was Frankfurt.

Whitley had evolved a unique escape kit. He tore out any labels betraying his identity, and wore his civilian trousers and shirt under his service dress. A tie, razor, shaving cream, toothbrush and paste, nailfile and tiny compass were stuffed in his clothing, and in a haversack were his jacket, coat and hat. Among aircrew, this ensemble caused many droll winks, shaking of heads and references to "kitchen sinks". These sceptics were to be confounded by events.

Shortly after crossing the French coast, Whitley's aircraft was attacked by an ME 110 and set on fire. As Whitley baled out, the hatch swung to, trapping his harness and he was left hanging in the slipstream. He clawed at the jammed hatch but the slipstream kept tearing his hand away. Luckily, with the structure of the aircraft distintegrating in its plunge, he suddenly parted company with it. But now a new danger threatened — only one of his two parachute hooks was attached. He delayed opening his parachute for about 8,000ft while he tried unsuccessfully to secure the second hook. As the ground came near he had no choice but to open his chute. Luckily the single hook held.

He also had a miraculous landing between a row of railway workers' cottages, narrowly missing several rows of spiked iron posts. He was whisked inside by the friendly owner of one of the cottages, where he immediately shaved off his RAF moustache. Next he was put in touch with the organisation that helped him and many other Allied airmen to escape to freedom.

He was sheltered initially by a French family who took enormous risks in doing so. Although the family were under strict instructions not to breathe a word about their visitor, much to Whitley's unease Monsieur — bursting with importance — told everyone in the village that "his friend the RAF colonel was staying with him."

After three weeks, clearance was given for *Le grand gibier* (The Big Game) — the codename the Resistance had given him, as their most senior escaping officer — to be moved on down the escape line, known as COMET, with his flight engineer and bomb aimer. Travel was mainly by train via Paris to La Rochelle and down the coast and finally by bicycle to St Jean-de-Luz. Whitley was upbraided by his guide for riding in too upright a manner, like an Englishman, so he hunched over his handlebars.

The final leg of the journey was an exhausting night crossing of the Pyrenees on foot to get to Spain. Whitley finally returned to the UK from Gibraltar after 45 days on the run. He was awarded the DSO for his escape; the story featured in Paul Brickhill's book *Escape or Die* (1952).

Meanwhile, at Linton, Whitley's failure to return created dismay. Leonard Cheshire wrote to his wife



"I don't think it is necessary for me to tell you of the enormous esteem and respect in which every man at Linton held your husband because you must know it." As the weeks passed with everyone hoping for news that their old CO was a PoW, none came and hopes faded. All hope had gone when one day a stranger appeared in the ante-room of the officers' mess at Linton, dressed in civilian clothes. No one paid any attention until after a considerable length of time, the stranger blurted out: "Good God! Doesn't anyone know me here?" It seemed that no one did until somebody suddenly shouted "Bloody hell! It's Group Captain Whitley!"

After the war, he returned to France to thank all those who had helped him to escape. Of these, two had died in concentration camps, four were executed, one was starved and tortured to death, and another crippled by machinegun fire in the legs, but others thankfully had survived. Whitley never forgot the debt he and other escapers owed to all those brave people.

John Whitley had spent his early childhood in Chile, where his father was in charge of building what was then the highest railway in the world, between Arica, Chile, and La Paz, Bolivia. After his mother's death he was brought up by his grandparents at Condette near Boulogne. Educated at Haileybury, he entered the RAF in 1926. In spite of having a rather difficult flying instructor who would pull out the joystick and beat his pupils about the head with it, Whitley was awarded his wings in 1927.

While at Worthy Down near Winchester in 7 Squadron, he had a miraculous escape from death when the pilot of a Virginia aircraft in which he was a passenger struck a station building, with the tail section landing on the roof of the station commander's car. Prompted by premonition of disaster, Whitley had taken the tailgunner's seat. All the other occupants of the aircraft were killed but he escaped with superficial injuries.

In 1932 he was posted to India where he commanded a bomber transport flight, piloted the Viceroy and made many long-range flights into South East Asia. He was heavily involved in relief operations following the Quetta earthquake in 1935. For this work he was awarded the AFC.

Joining 24 Squadron at Hendon in 1937, he had the task of carrying out special flights into France in the early months of the war. Among his passengers in those days were Neville Chamberlain, Winston Churchill, "Bomber" Harris and Noël Coward.

In May 1940 he was given command of 149 Squadron, equipped with Wellingtons, and towards the end of the year he was posted to Bomber Command HQ as operations room officer. Six months later he took command of the bomber station at Linton-on-Ouse.

Every night when operations were on, Whitley could be found in the control tower; as the bombers taxied, it was not unusual to see his slim figure, out on the balcony, saluting each aircraft as it went by. Until someone let the cat out of the bag, he went on many operations over Germany, without his wife realising, having told her that he was "just going to the office".

After his escape he was given command successively of two bomber stations and a bomber base. He instilled into his bomber crews a lively appreciation of how they could help themselves to escape if shot down; as a result a gratifyingly high proportion of aircrew from his base, who were shot down, evaded capture.

From February 1945 he commanded a succession of bomber groups, converting effortlessly from piston-engined aircraft to jets when the RAF acquired its first Canberras. As an AOC he became one of the RAF's most experienced jet bomber pilots and in 1953, while commanding No 1 Group, he led a force of Canberras on tours of RAF bases in the Mediterranean, the Middle East, the Caribbean, Canada and West Africa. For this, he gained a Bar to his AFC in 1956.

He was Air Member for Personnel on the Air Council, 1957-59 and, finally, Inspector-General of the RAF. In retirement, he was Controller of the RAF Benevolent Fund, 1962-68. During his career, he had flown more 4,300 hours in 65 types of aircraft.

A keen skier and sailor in his youth, he was able to indulge in both these sports from his early sixties until his mid-eighties.

His first wife Barbara died in 1965; he married, in 1967, Alison Russell. She died in 1986; he is survived by three of the four sons of his first marriage and by three stepsons.

YVONNE CORMEAU

Yvonne Cormeau Farrow, MBE, an SOE wartime secret wireless operator, died on Christmas Day aged 88. She was born in Shanghai on December 18, 1909.

IN HER work for the Resistance in France, Yvonne Cormeau created an important link between the Gascon Resistance and supplies of arms from England. Yet despite her success she was sent back to England after D-Day by an ungrateful de Gaulle.

Beatrice Yvonne Biesterfeld was born in China, where her father was on business. She came back to Europe with her parents, and settled in Belgium, where she married Charles Cormeau, an army officer, with whom she had a daughter. Before the Second World War she worked as secretary to the legal adviser to the British Embassy.

In the catastrophe of May 1940, her husband was killed in action. Her mother, who stayed in Belgium, was packed off to Ravensbrück, from which she never returned. Yvonne managed to get to England with her two-year-old infant, and decided, on reflection, that it would be better for her child in the long run if she went away to help to



defeat Hitler, horrible though the thought of separation was.

She joined the WAAF in the autumn of 1941. She was able to pass for a Frenchwoman, and so moved into the Special Operations Executive a year later. After passing the paramilitary and security schools, she was trained as a wireless-telegraphy operator as well as a parachutist, codenamed "Annette", and dropped into France on August 22-23, 1943, to work for Colonel George Starr, codenamed "Hilaire", a principal figure in the Resistance in southwest France.

Cormeau had an unusually long and distinguished career in this dangerous role, sending more than 400 messages — a record for the independent French section — and never falling into enemy hands. This was partly because she followed to the letter all the security instructions she had been given under training, with one exception.

It was a rigid rule never to transmit twice running from the same place — a rule she always observed in the plains. But Starr had a headquarters in the Pyrenean foothills at the village of Castelnau-sur-l'Avignon, of which he had become deputy mayor; from there she could see for miles, and she used to work with a pair of field glasses beside her transmitter so that she could close down the moment she spotted a direction-finding van. The Germans knew there was a British officer somewhere about with a wireless set, but they did not think of looking in a village without running water.

With Cormeau's help, Starr's "Wheelwright" circuit received as many as 140 arms drops from the air. It thereby armed and encouraged several thousand *maquisards*, who played an important part in delaying the movement towards Normandy of German troops in France after the D-Day landings of June 1944. Some of the hectic flavour of their lives can be tasted in *Moondrop to Gascony* (1946) by Anne-Marie Walters, who was the circuit's courier and a more extrovert though less secure personality than Madame Cormeau, who never published anything.

After D-Day, all three of them became much more mobile. Cormeau distinguished herself repeatedly by keeping to her scheduled times of transmission with home station as battle raged around her — once so closely that a bullet tore through her skirt. Briefly she had to skip over the frontier into Spain, disguised as a cowgirl, but she was soon back at work, and was with Starr when he marched into Toulouse in August. Like him, she was soon dismissed back to England by a furious General de Gaulle, who could not abide any resisters who were not under his own direct command.

After the war, she and her daughter were reunited, and she settled down to the job of bringing up the girl. She was one of the earliest members of the Special Forces Club, served for many years on its committee, and formed in and around it many new friendships. She became a British citizen, and was appointed MBE. The French were more generous with honours, awarding her both a Croix de Guerre and membership of the Legion of Honour. She was tireless in promoting Anglo-French friendship.

She remained alert, cheerful, and vigorous for her years; she was in high spirits when she went by bus to Valençay in 1991 to be present at the inauguration of the monument to the dead of her section. After her 80th birthday she married again, James Edgar Farrow, with whom she lived in Derbyshire. He died before her, but she is survived by her daughter.

LEON POLIAKOV

Léon Poliakov, historian, died on December 8 aged 87. He was born on November 25, 1910.

POPPERFOTO/UPI



LEON POLIAKOV was one of the pioneers of the "history of mentalities" which blossomed in France in the 1970s and 1980s. His great theme was anti-Semitism, and it grew directly out of the tragic events he witnessed and suffered in his own life. As he once said: "I wanted to find out why certain people had it in for me. It was pretty much a personal matter."

Léon Poliakov was born in St Petersburg. His father, a newspaper editor, named him in honour of Tolstoy, who had died the day before the boy was born. The convulsions of the Revolution prompted the family to flee to Berlin when Léon was ten. A few years later, the wave of anti-Semitism they sensed in Germany pushed them further west and they settled in Paris in 1924. There Léon attended the Lycée Janson de Sailly and studied law.

With the rise of Hitler, he and his father set up a short-lived anti-Nazi newspaper for refugees, the *Pariser Tageblatt*. When France was invaded in 1940, Léon joined the Resistance and, with several others, founded the Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine. Afterwards, he pursued an academic career, writing a doctoral thesis and being appointed to a post at the Centre Nationale de Recherches Scientifiques.

At the same time, however, he attended the Nuremberg Trials as part of the French delegation and was asked by the Government to translate the archives of the Gestapo. This experience led him to write his study of the Final Solution, *Bréviaire de la Haine* (Breviary of Hatred), a work still considered authoritative today. However, in a France straining to recover its national self-image, and little inclined to go over painful recent history, the book was not published until 1951, and then only after the intervention of Raymond Aron.

Poliakov's realisation that the horrors of Nazism had deep roots lay behind his magnum opus, the five-volume *Histoire de l'Antisémitisme*, which was to occupy him for almost four decades and which traced the phenomenon from the time of Christ to the "Suicidal Europe" of the world wars and the postwar period up to 1993.

Poliakov's work on anti-Semitism led him to a more general appreciation of the phenomenon of social exclusion, and he went on to produce studies of conspiracy theory and the idea of the scapegoat (*La Causalité diabolique*) and of the kind of society which was particularly reliant on such mechanisms (*Totalitarismes du XXe siècle*). He also took a keen interest in the development of the state of Israel.

As time went on, Poliakov's early faith in the capacity of reason to dissolve the toxins of racism wore increasingly thin. History would always have its crises and violent periods: "You cannot exorcise a thousand-year-old evil by means of rational argument," he declared. And in 1991, to the newspaper *Libération*, he stated that "If we want anti-Semitism to disappear, then we must hope that the Jews will be assimilated for good. If we want Judaism to survive, then we must resign ourselves to anti-Semitism, because it preserves Judaism."

It was an iconoclastic, perhaps weary vision, but one sadly borne out by the ugliness of the French political scene at the time of Poliakov's death. Such phenomena as the confusion surrounding the trial of the Vichy official Maurice Papon, or the provocations of the National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen who insists that the gas chambers were a mere "detail" of the Second World War, are grim reminders of the continuing pertinence of the work accomplished by this eminent and courageous historian.

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THE END OF THE FEAST

Last Sunday all well-regulated households spared an hour or so from churchgoing, eating, sleeping and bridge to a very necessary work of destruction. It was Twelfth Night; and on Twelfth Night the Christmas decorations must come down and be burned.

It was not always so. Within the memory of living man not a leaf must be touched, whether in church or in home, until Candlemas, February 2, on risk of folk-lore only knows what string of miserable mouths. Twelfth Night is the easy rule today. In most houses the mistletoe was treated as a Christmas decoration and taken down with the holly. Many West Country people will be shocked to hear it. Do not these foreigners, these English, know, they will ask, that the mistletoe must hang till the next Christmas Eve, and then must be so taken down, and the new piece put up, that neither touches the floor? It is too late now; come what may, the mistletoe, too, was burned. Yesterday — but for those Christmas cards left over like a forgotten heap of leaves in the garden — the house looked as if Puck and his fairies had been there with their brooms. But this notable cleanness of the outside of cup and platter may well have stirred secret misgivings about the inside of certain desks, cupboards and wardrobes, and even of certain rooms. The holly is down from the pictures; the pictures remain; but it is not, perhaps, absolutely certain what withered holly was any worse than some of the pictures. The things on the mantelpiece can now be seen; perhaps, after all, the Christmas cards were doing some of them a kindness. The Christmas tree took up a lot of room; it is not impossible that the room would be better than the company of some of the more permanent possessions.

It is surprising how quickly a thing, an object, will acquire a sort of squatter's right, which makes the ejection of it seem tyrannous. It may never have been really liked by its owner; it may be ugly and inconvenient and inefficient; but there it is. Laziness and habit and a sentimental sort of attachment protect it; and timidity made up as purpose pleads that any sort of change distracts a man from his serious work.

To test the invigorating effect of open space and of freedom from being cluttered up, we need a Twelfth Night for other things than Christmas decorations, a fixed occasion for going through the house and getting rid of everything that is not being used, and used to advantage.

ON THIS DAY

January 8, 1935

The writer ends this fourth leader with the sober reflection that to each one of us our Twelfth Night will come and the world will do better with our room than with our company

NEWS

Doctors call for human cloning ban

■ Doctors and scientists called for a worldwide ban on cloning human beings after an American physicist said that he would start work on producing a cloned baby in three months.

Richard Seed, who aims to set up a clinic in Chicago, said that an infertile married upper middle-class couple was "number one on the list". The clinic would probably clone both the husband and wife in successive years.....Pages 1, 2

White House meeting for Paula Jones

■ President Clinton, in what promises to be a highly embarrassing confrontation, is facing a meeting at the White House with Paula Jones, the former Arkansas employee who is suing him for sexual harassment. A subpoena calls for the President to give his first sworn testimony on January 17 in the lawsuit brought by Mrs Jones..... Page 1

Slow trains

The honeymoon period between train travellers and the privatised rail companies has come to an end with an increasing number of services running late..... Page 1

Dental freedom

The days of the dentist's drill could be numbered with the invention of a gel that dissolves bad teeth. Researchers claim that it preserves healthy tissue and does not lead to bleeding gums Page 1

Mowlam appeal

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, is to make a personal appeal to loyalist terrorists inside the Maze prison to support the peace talks.....Page 2

Hat trick

A puff of wind and the ingenuity of an Australian inventor may have thrown up a cure-all for amateur golfers who dream of shaving a stroke or two off their handicaps . . . a hat.....Page 3

Knife attack

A homeless teenager was convicted of attempting to murder a woman on a late-night train by ramming a knife into her head.....Page 5

Council accused

Hackney Council acted improperly and incompetently in its handling of child abuse allegations against a social worker who later died of an Aids-related illness, an inquiry found..... Page 6

Drink driving claim

Chief constables called for wider police powers to stop suspected drink-drivers as Christmas figures showed that 9 per cent of motorists who had accidents were over the limit.....Page 8

Sacked wife row

A Labour MP who sacked his estranged wife as his constituency secretary after the general election told an industrial tribunal that he had wanted her out of his life..... Page 9

Prescription fraud

People caught dishonestly trying to avoid prescription charges are to be fined £25. The move is one of 100 measures to tackle prescription fraud..... Page 11

Refugee crisis

Italy assured Germany that it was not "the soft underbelly of Europe" and would take stricter measures to control the influx of Kurdish refugees.....Page 12

Brussels crime

Brussels is not usually rated a dangerous diplomatic posting but a spate of armed carjackings has added a new risk to the lives of ambassadors and Eurocrats in the Belgian capital.....Page 13

Golden solution

South Koreans crowded banks to hand in gold rings, necklaces and trophies in a desperate attempt to bail their country out of its economic tailspin.....Page 14

Boy, 10, pistol-whipped taxi driver

■ Police are hunting a ten-year-old who pistol-whipped and robbed a taxi driver. The boy, who was with two older youths, threatened the driver with the gun when he was asked for a £5 fare. He then hit the man with the gun, stole £30 takings and left him by the roadside before the gang escaped in the car which was later found on a Bristol estate.....Page 1

MIKE SHARP



The A449 Worcester bypass curves across flooded land near the city after the Severn broke its banks following weeks of heavy rain

BUSINESS

Income: The Inland Revenue is set to collect more than £100 million in fines. Almost three and half million people have yet to file their self assessment tax forms..... Page 23

Park Royal: The Guinness brewery in West London is to become the centrepiece of a £350 million business park development that could create 5,000 jobs..... Page 23

Economy: British service industries grew slightly more strongly in December, a surprising development given the evidence that the economy has begun losing steam..... Page 23

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 40.3 to 5224.1. Sterling fell from 104.9 to 104.5 after a fall from $1.6327 to $1.6242 and from DM2.9756 to DM2.9656..... Page 26

SPORT

Cricket: Brian Lara will captain West Indies in the Test series against England. He replaces Courtney Walsh, who has led the side since 1996..... Page 44

Football: Newcastle United have decided to appeal to the Football Association over Stevenage Borough's decision not to switch their FA Cup fourth-round tie .. Page 44

Tennis: Tim Henman maintained his unbeaten record against Guillaume Raoux, of France, with a 7-5, 6-4 victory that took him to the quarter-finals of the Qatar Open in Doha..... Page 44

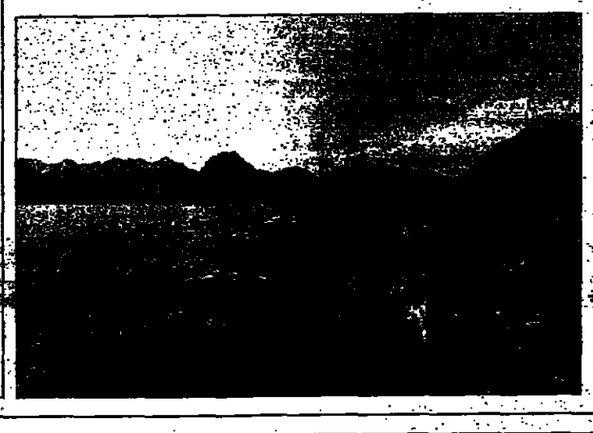
Motor racing: Ferrari launched its new F300 car for the 1998 Formula One season with a fanfare expecting its first driver's championship for 19 seasons..... Page 41

New movies: Bruce Willis and Richard Gere do their considerable best to make a much-altered *The Jackal* stand up to Fred Zinnemann's inspiration..... Page 31

Messy business: *Klaxons, Trumpets and Raspberries* is a revival of Dario Fo's political mayhem that goes all out for laughs at the expense of satire..... Page 32

Too chic for rags: Sylvie Guillem glitters for the opening night of the classic Royal Ballet staging of Frederick Ashton's *Cinderella* at the Festival Hall..... Page 32

Home comforts: Best of the week's video releases is the romantic comedy *One Fine Day*, with Michelle Pfeiffer and George Clooney struggling with careers and their children..... Page 33



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ SCOTLAND

A 16-page guide to the burns, braes and beaches, wildlife, high life, highlands and islands

■ MEDIA

The Kurdish spy producer who exposed the "dying rooms" of Chinese orphanages

Dr Thomas Stuttaford: How a smiling face can hide a potential suicide; a fresh approach to HIV testing; the agony of being a shopaholic during the sale season; sweat and class; the benefits of wearing a bow tie..... Page 16

Sympathy: Why I feel sorry for Jack Straw . . . Michael Howard talks to Moira Petty..... Page 17

High flyers: "I was at the same university as William Hague, in the same year. Most of the people I knew then smoked cannabis and none of their lives has been wrecked; indeed, every single one has since prospered," says Mary Ann Sieghart..... Page 17

Lighten up: Michael Levey throws new light on the art of Correggio; D.M. Thomas puts Eisenstein in focus; Ivan Klima hails a history of Prague, Russia reborn..Pages 34, 35

Anyone who has visited Algeria in the years since 1991 can only be astonished at the courage with which society continues to try to live a normal life amid ever more terrible massacres. Most Algerians understands with the small section of society which claims to act in the name of Islam but which is trying to put back the clock of history. The regime is not perfect but the West has no choice but to support it

— *La Repubblica*, Rome

Preview: A cab company is the latest comic target of John (*Only Fools and Horses*) Sullivan. *Roger Roger* (BBC1, 9.30pm). **Review:** Joe Joseph on the flies on the emergency room wall..... Pages 42, 43

A lead from London

A clear statement of United Kingdom Government thinking which allays the worst fears of Unionists may be able to help maintain waning confidence in the talks process..... Page 19

Schengen shivers

Voters, interior ministers and police chiefs are questioning the sustainability of the Schengen dream of open borders.....Page 19

Without delay

Rail regulators must heavily penalise train companies which fail to run trains on time.....Page 19

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Though made with the best of intentions, and by loyal Roman Catholics, the suggestion that Cardinal Hume should be made a peer is a typically English act of presumption..... Page 18

KELVIN MACKENZIE

If crimes such as mugging, car theft and burglary are reported in the media, the public might think the police are not on top of the job..... Page 18

EDDIE GEORGE

If London is to take advantage of the opportunities created by the euro, it must be well-prepared technically. British institutions and markets appear to be taking the necessary steps..... Page 18

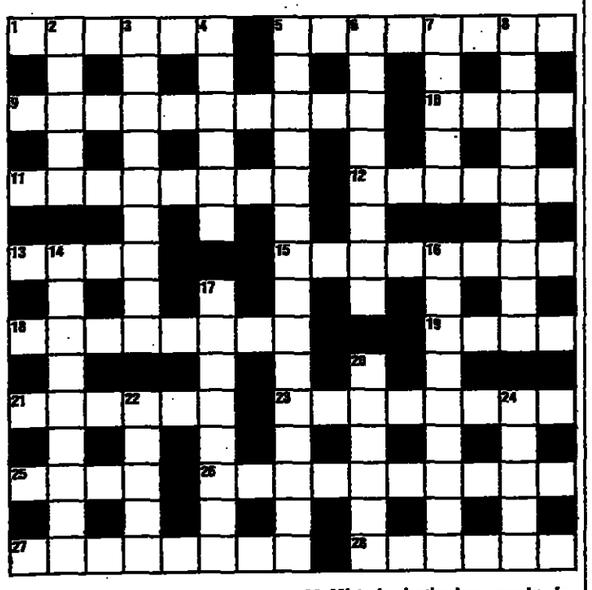
JOHN BRYANT

Beware of anyone who macks about with sport to make it "better for the spectator". In the age of professionalism, sport is only too willing to fiddle around with its rules to please the ticket-holder or the camera operator..... Page 42

Air Marshal Sir John Whitley: bomber command; **Yvonne Cormeau,** *SOE agent*; **Léon Poliakov,** historian..... Page 21

UN and human rights; EMU; Armed Forces future; languages in decline; new year honours; mushrooms; Shakespeare.....Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,683



ACROSS

1 Bird a Labrador, for example, retrieved with intelligence (6).
5 Drink's beard to lead to laughter and uproar (8).
9 Plastic dentures pinching a part of the mouth (4,6).
10 Small whale — one first seen coming out of Jersey or Guernsey? (4).
11 Hungry? Taking double helpings ultimately increases your calorie count! (8).
12 Sample one employed to protect consumers (6).
13 Girl I connected with Sandhurst (4).
15 Inspire dance for an energetic person (8).
18 Execute even with the highest authority (3-5).
19 Queen appearing in disguise in Acton (4).
21 Historic institution sought by some foreign visitors (6).
23 Rush to make corrections in expenses? Not half! (8).
25 Preserve sound wood round door (4).
26 Resort island's given backing to, having potential for renovation (10).
27 One who sings what Rossini adapted for opera? (4-4).
28 Excessively particular in one's habits (6).

DOWN

2 They produce notes originally on backs of envelopes scribbled (5).
3 Bird's mournful cry going across the land (5,4).
4 Merchant ship (6).
5 They have a good look for the rich and famous (9,6).
6 Spill from open container (8).
7 Take in a lot of wine with us (5).
8 Handle inexperienced drivers on unknown Northern hill (9).
14 The subject of such a work is often slated (9).
16 It identifies source of line in play with celebrity (5,4).
17 Uplifted me in a very long solo, one by Gounod (3,5).
20 Characteristic of scared state? Just the opposite — facing blow (6).
22 Record company's part in production of *Sonnambula* (Bellini) (5).
24 Relations of those listed for possible service in court (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,682

R	E	G	R	E	S	S	I	N	G		R	E	A	D
	L	O	C	N		R		E		L				
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Times Two Crossword, page 44

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Exmouth, Devon, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Lough Fea, Co Tyrone, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Littlehampton, West Sussex, 0.82in; highest sunshine: Jersey, Channel Islands, 4.5hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 43.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996

General: it will be very mild across most of the country, especially in the south, with temperatures well into double figures. It will be cloudy and windy in most places, especially the west, with rain in the south-west spreading northeast across most areas. Most of Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a cloudy and damp night with spells of rain. Many places in England and Wales will remain dry although cloudy at times. However, some rain may affect northwest England and North Wales by the morning.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Channel Isles: dry to start, but chance of some drizzle during the afternoon. Wind southwest, fresh. Max 13C (55F).

Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, SW England, S Wales: cloudy and damp with spells of drizzly rain. Wind southwest, fresh to strong. Max 13C (55F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England, NE England: cloudy with heavy rain at times. Drier for a while before more rain. Wind southwest, fresh to strong. Max 11C (52F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland: cloudy with outbreaks of showery rain. Wind south to southwest, fresh. Max 9C (48F).

Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: mostly dry with some sunny or bright spells. Clouding over later bringing the threat of rain. Wind south to southwest, moderate. Max 7C (45F).

N Ireland: wet and breezy start, but then drier for a time before more rain later. Wind southwest, fresh to strong. Max 9C (48F).

Republic of Ireland: wet start then brighter for a time, with further persistent rain before becoming mostly dry. Wind southwest, strong. Max 11C (52F).

Outlook: staying very mild although windy at times. The south and east will be mostly dry and bright but the north will have outbreaks of rain.



Changes to the chart below from noon: low W will remain stationary and slowly fill; low F will run quickly NE and fill; low X will head NE with unchanged pressure



24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	3.5	0.11	6	43	sh	Leeds	x				
Anglesey	1.8	0.12	9	48	sh	Lerwick	0.1	0.05	7	45	sh
Aspatria	1.3	0.29	7	45	h	Leuchars	1.1	0.02	5	41	r
Aberystwyth	0.5	0.04	5	41	sl	Llandudno	1.9	0.62	11	52	r
Belfast	x					London	4.1	0.09	11	52	r
Birmingham	x					Lowestoft	2.9	0.09	9	48	sh
Bognor R	3.3	0.33	10	50	r	Manchester	1.0	0.08	7	45	r
Bournem'th	2.4	0.34	11	52	h	Margate	3.2	0.19	11	52	r
Bristol	1.4	0.17	9	48	sh	Minehead	1.8	0.35	8	46	r
Boston	0.7	0.37	5	41	sh	Morecambe	0.9	0.36	8	46	h
Cardiff	0.7	0.33	8	46	h	Newcastle	0.9	0.01	7	45	sh
Clacton	4.0	0.12	9	48	b	Newquay	x				
Cleethorpes	2.9	0.01	8	46	b	Norwich	3.0	0.32	9	48	b
Colwyn Bay	0.1	0.13	10	50	c	Oxford	2.4	0.27	9	48	r
Cromer	2.4	0.11	6	43	s	Penzance	x	0.33	11	52	r
Dunbar	x					Poole	1.4	0.28	11	52	h
Eastbourne	0.1	0.13	11	52	r	Prestatyn	x	0.17	8	46	sh
Edinburgh	x					Rhoss-o-nye	0.4	0.42	7	45	sh
Eskdalemuir	0.1	0.44	4	39	h	Salcombe	x				
Exmouth	-	0.04	12	54	sh	Saunton Strd	1.2	0.31	10	50	g
Falmouth	3.0	0.18	11	52	sh	Scarboro'	x				
Fishguard	x					Shrewsbury	2.5	0.08	5	41	sh
Folkestone	3.7	0.40	11	52	r	Skegness	x				
Glasgow	1.0	0.13	7	45	sh	Southport	0.2	0.21	8	43	sh
Guernsey	0.6	0.19	11	52	h	Southsea	3.0	0.22	11	52	h
Hastings	2.7	0.35	10	50	sh	Stornoway	0.2	0.45	8	46	h
Hayling I.	2.4	0.37	10	50	r	Swanage	2.2	0.34	11	52	sh
Herne Bay	3.2	0.22	11	52	b	Teignmouth	x				
Hove	2.3	x	10	50	sh	Tenby	1.2	0.18	9	48	h
Hunstanton	x	0.02	8	46	c	Tiree	x				
Isle-of-man	x					Torquay	x				
Isle-of-wight	x					Tynemouth	x				
Jersey	4.5	0.30	11	52	r	West-s-mare	x				
Kinloss	x					Weymouth	1.8	0.35	11	52	h

Ajaccio	16	61	f	Cologne	6	43	f	Luxor	21	70	s
Alicante	17	63	c	Corfu	17	63	f	Madrid	5	41	c
Aberdeen	20	68	f	C'phagn	4	39	c	Majorca	15	59	f
Algarve	17	63	f	Dublin	8	46	r	Malaga	17	63	s
Amst'dam	8	46	r	Dubrovnik	14	57	f	Malta	18	64	f
Athens	15	59	f	Faro	16	61	s	Mell'rne	19	66	s
B Aires	23	73	f	Florence	14	57	c	Mexico C	19	66	s
Bahrain	13	55	c	Frankfurt	7	45	f	Miami	26	79	s
Bangkok	32	90	s	Funchal	19	66	f	Milan	6	43	f
Barbados	29	84	f	Geneva	6	43	r	Montreal	-5	23	x
Barcelona	13	55	s	Gibraltar	18	64	s	Moscow	0	32	c
Beijing	5	41	s	Helsinki	1	34	r	Munich	5	41	f
Beirut	17	63	f	Hong K	17	63	f	N Delhi	18	64	s
Belgrade	8	46	f	Innsbruck	7	45	f	N York	13	55	f
Berlin	4	39	r	Istanbul	12	54	s	Nairobi	24	75	c
Bermuda	21	70	f	Jeddah	28	82	s	Naples	16	61	c
Biarritz	15	61	s	Jo'burg	24	75	f	Nice	18	61	s
Bombay	16	61	f	Karachi	x			Oslo	1	34	s
Brussels	7	45	s	L. Angeles	14	57	s	Paris	5	41	c
Budapest	8	46	f	L Palmas	21	70	c	Perth	39	102	s
Cairo	19	66	s	Le Touqt	7	45	s	Prague	5	41	f
Cape Ta	26	79	f	Lisbon	16	61	s	Reykjavik	5	41	f
Ch'church	x			Locarno	x			Rhodes	16	61	c
Chicago	8	46	f	Luxembg	4	39	c	Rio de J	34	93	f

Riyadh	15	59	f	Tangier	17	63	s	Vancouv	8	43	f
Rome	15	59	f	Tenerife	21	70	c	Venice	7	45	f
S Fr'sco	11	52	s	Tokyo	11	52	r	Vienna	8	46	s
Salzburg	4	39	r	Toronto	10	50	c	Warsaw	6	43	f
Santiago	28	82	s	Tunis	18	64	f	Washton	15	59	c
Seoul	1	34	s	Valencia	18	61	s	Wellington	19	66	s
Sing'por	29	84	f	Stockh'm	7	45	c	Zurich	6	43	r
Sydney	22	72	s	Strasb'rg	-1	30	f				

Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday X = not available

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	9:40	3.8	10:00	3.9	Liverpool	7:06	8.0	7:36	8.3
Avonmouth	2:36	10.9	3:16	11.3	London Bridge	6:20	6.4	10:20	6.6
Ballast	7:08	3.1	7:30	3.3	Lowestoft	4:52	2.4	5:06	2.5
Cardiff	2:22	10.2	3:02	10.5	Margate	7:28	4.3	8:27	4.3
Devonport	1:16	4.7	1:46	4.8	Milford Haven	1:54	5.7	2:29	5.9
Dover	9:48	5.9	7:30	5.8	Newquay	0:54	5.8	1:29	6.0
Dublin	7:54	3.8	8:11	3.9	Oban	1:56	3.1	2:43	3.4
Falmouth	0:47	4.5	1:19	4.6	Penzance	0:19	4.7	12:51	4.8
Greenock	8:06	3.2	8:50	3.2	Portland	2:02	1.6	2:29	1.6
Harwich	7:17	3.5	8:10	3.6	Portsmouth	7:30	4.4	8:00	4.2
Holyhead	8:20	4.8	8:51	5.1	Shoreham	7:01	5.7	7:34	5.5
Hull (Albert D)	1:37	7.9	2:40	7.7	Southampton	6:38	4.2	7:11	4.0
Ilfracombe	1:34	7.6	2:13	7.9	Swansea	1:56	7.9	2:30	8.2
King's Lynn	1:45	5.7	2:49	5.5	Tees	-	-	12:01	4.9
Leith	TO48	4.9	11:12	5.0	Walton-On-Naze	7:17	3.7	8:11	3.7

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Sun rises:	Sun sets:	
8.04 am	4.11 pm	London 4.11 pm to 8.04 am
		Bristol 4.21 pm to 8.13 am
		Edinburgh 3.59 pm to 8.40 am
Moon sets:	Moon rises:	Manchester 4.09 pm to 8.22 am
9.17 am	1.15 pm	Penzance 4.38 pm to 8.19 am

Full moon January 12

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GTE read

Over 3m face fine from th Revenu

Diageo in £350m business park plan

Zett

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THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



BUSINESS
Bronwen Maddox has the US budget surplus in her sights
PAGE 27



ARTS
Rags to riches: Sylvie Guillem is a royal Cinderella
PAGES 31-33



SPORT
Henman makes heavy weather of beating Raoux
PAGES 38-44

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 42, 43

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft THURSDAY JANUARY 8 1998

GTE ready to increase $28bn offer for MCI

BY RAYMOND SNODDY IN LONDON AND OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

GTE, the US telecommunications group, is prepared to increase its $28 billion (£17.2 billion) cash offer for MCI if WorldCom's $37 billion share offer for the company fails to go ahead for any reason.

Although GTE was outbid in the battle for MCI last autumn it has not given up its quest for the long-distance telephone specialist which originally planned a merger with BT.

GTE hopes that the deal might unravel either for regulatory reasons or if MCI shareholders vote against accepting WorldCom stock.

BT has effectively ruled itself out of the battle for MCI, though this has largely derailed its expansion strategy in the US. It sold the 20 per cent stake it built up in MCI to WorldCom at a profit of $2.25 billion.

GTE concedes that an agreed bid on the scale of WorldCom's offer for MCI builds up a certain momentum towards acceptance but believes it is still possible that MCI's shareholders will reject the offer when it is formally put to them in March.

GTE was among the companies that had lodged formal objections to the WorldCom-MCI tie-up with the Federal Communications Commission by Monday's deadline.

In its filing the Connecticut-based telephone group said that the merger offered no new benefits to consumers, adding: "There are no facts, figures or analyses offered to show that the merger will have any beneficial effects for the public."

Two regional US phone companies, BellSouth, based in Atlanta, and Bell Atlantic, which serves the East Coast, also filed written depositions with the FCC. The two regional carriers said that MCI-WorldCom could dominate the long-distance market as well as the market for Internet operations.

WorldCom is the largest Internet carrier and the fourth-largest long-distance operator. MCI is the second-largest long-distance service provider.

In its submission Bell Atlantic said: "The new WorldCom would be in the position of the AT&T of the early 20th century, which became so large that other companies had to interconnect with AT&T or go bankrupt."

Senior GTE executives have also noted with interest a fierce attack on the WorldCom-MCI merger by an independent academic which appeared last month in *Barron's*, the respected US financial and business weekly.

In the article, Benjamin J. Stein, who teaches law and economics at Peperdine University in Malibu, California, said that in the first six months of 1997 MCI pulled in three times the revenues of WorldCom and five times the profit. Mr Stein argued that if MCI shareholders accepted the WorldCom offer of £51 a share they would see their earnings vanish. The author argued that the offer "would be good" as long as WorldCom stock continues to sell at $29 a share or above. WorldCom has come down from a high of nearly $38 in October to just over $31 now.

WorldCom says it is confident that the deal with MCI is on track for completion by the middle of the year and emphasises both the synergy and the large savings involved.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5224.1	(–40.3)
Yield	3.11%	
FTSE All share	2451.46	(–13.28)
Nikkei	15028.17	(+131.77)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7812.84	(–93.41)*
S&P Composite	956.51	(–10.07)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¹⁄₁₆%*	(5¹⁄₄%)
Long Bond	104²⁹⁄₃₂*	(105⁵⁄₃₂)
Yield	5.77%*	(5.72%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	7¹⁄₄%	(7¹⁄₄%)
Life long gilt future (Mar)	123	(123)

CURRENCIES

New York:		
$	1.6255*	(1.6235)
London:		
$	1.6247	(1.6339)
DM	2.9680	(2.9770)
FFr	9.9241	(9.9626)
SFr	2.4013	(2.4119)
Yen	214.96	(218.15)
£ Index	104.5	(104.9)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.8225*	(1.8340)
FFr	6.0995*	(6.1365)
SFr	1.4775*	(1.4840)
Yen	131.73*	(133.95)
$ Index	110.4	(110.6)

Tokyo close Yen 133.15

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Mar)	$16.00 ($15.85)

GOLD

London close	$282.55 ($282.35)

* denotes midday trading price

Take or pay

Centrica, the energy distributor that sells under the brand name British Gas, finally said goodbye to its costly take-or-pay problems with the settlement of a further contract and the exit of its chief contracts negotiator. **Page 25**

Lloyd's inquiry

Lloyd's of London is to look into allegations of misconduct surrounding Merrett Syndicate 418, the insurance syndicate once linked to Stephen Merrett, the controversial former deputy chairman of Lloyd's. **Page 28**

Over 3m face fines from the Revenue

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

THE Inland Revenue is set to collect more than £100 million in fines as close to three-and-a-half million people have yet to file their self-assessment tax forms.

Those who miss the January 31 deadline for returning their self-assessment forms will be subject to an immediate £100 fine. If only a third of the outstanding laggards fail to meet this deadline, the Treasury stands to make more than £100 million in instant penalties.

As well as submitting their forms, taxpayers must enclose cheques for their tax due for the 1996-97 tax year. Those who fail to do so, will have to pay interest of 9.5 per cent on the outstanding amount.

The Revenue claims that the new self-assessment regime is a success despite the fact that 3.4 million of a total of nine million who come under the new rules have not returned the forms. The self-assessment regime affects the self-employed, higher-rate taxpayers and anyone else who has complicated tax affairs. Under self-assessment, individuals must calculate their own bills. Taxpayers who did not wish to carry out these calculations had to meet an earlier deadline: September 30, 1997.

The Revenue is trying to make it easy for the laggards by keeping its 350 inquiry centres open on Saturday January 31. This will be the first time for more than 35 years that the Revenue has opened its doors at the weekend. Staff will be on hand to help late-comers to fill in their forms.

At a press conference yesterday, featuring Rory McGrath, who appears in *They Think It's All Over*, the BBC TV sports quiz, Clive Corlett, deputy chairman of the Inland Revenue, emphasised the lack of a second chance for those who missed the deadline: "There will be no injury or extra time and please do not let it come down to penalties."

The self-assessment regime has been dogged by controversy since its launch more than a year ago. The Revenue had to revise the original design of the forms because even professional accountants had difficulty understanding them. However, it claims that taxpayers have been filling in the revised form with few errors — only 6 per cent had to be returned because of mistakes.

The Revenue said that only 50,000 of 5.6 million tax returns that had been submitted were still causing problems.

The Revenue estimates that about half of the nine million who were sent self-assessment forms for the first time last year were self-employed people, many of whom had accountants or tax advisers.

Interest will be levied on late-payers. Those who do not pay by February 28 face a 5 per cent surcharge. And failing to file by July 31 will result in a second £100 fine.

Commentary, page 25



Computer watch: shares in Apple Computers fell more than 5 per cent yesterday as Wall Street revised its view of Apple's profit prospects. The share price soared 20 per cent on Tuesday after the computer company announced a return to profitability. Steve Jobs, the Apple interim chief executive, above, announced a $45 million profit for the quarter to December 31. Apple had been losing money since 1995 MacWorld joy, page 24

Diageo in £350m business park plan

BY DOMINIC WALSH

THE Guinness brewery at Park Royal in West London is to become the centrepiece of a £350 million business park development that could create 5,000 jobs.

Diageo, the food and drink company created from the merger of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan, has teamed up with London & Regional Properties, which is controlled by the multi-millionaire Livingstone brothers, to submit a planning application to Ealing and Brent councils.

The proposals include a new headquarters for Diageo's Guinness brewing division, a health and fitness centre, a hotel and some housing.

A spokesman for Diageo declined to be drawn on the financial implications for the group, but confirmed that it would result in the sale of 60 of the sites's 80 acres.

The brewery was opened in 1936, but advances in brewing technology have reduced the amount of space required to produce its famous stout for the UK market. Four years ago it spent £50 million upgrading the facilities. Much of the site is taken up by sports pitches and fields. The plan envisages nine office buildings in landscaped grounds with an access road to the A40 and a new Underground stop on the Central Line.

Surprise growth in service sector a worry for Bank

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

BRITISH service industries grew slightly more strongly in December, a surprising development given other evidence that the economy has begun losing steam, and a worrying one for the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) as it met to discuss interest rates.

The latest survey of services from The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply showed that new business accelerated last month, showing the biggest monthly rise since May last year. Prices charged jumped to their highest level for seven months, although strong competition meant that only 10 per cent of all companies surveyed were able to raise prices.

More worrying for the MPC, which is keenly watching for signs of a pick-up in wage inflation, was the number of firms reporting skill shortages as a further constraint on expansion.

The MPC met yesterday and concludes its monthly meeting today. An overwhelming majority of City forecasters is expecting the committee to leave base rates unchanged this month but most are expecting base rates to rise at least one more time this year, with February's meeting hotly favoured.

The conventional wisdom is that the MPC will want to wait for more comprehensive information on how retailers, not represented heavily in the purchasing managers' survey, fared over Christmas.

☐ Receiverships fell 15 per cent last year to their lowest level since 1989, according to KPMG. While manufacturers continued to struggle in 1997, retailers and construction companies saw significant falls in the number of failures.

BSkyB could face delay to digital satellite TV plans

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

SES, the Luxembourg company that owns the Astra satellite system, may have to redeploy a satellite already in space to ensure that the UK's 200-channel digital satellite television system goes ahead on schedule.

It is trying to assess the impact that problems with a Russian Proton rocket launched on Christmas Eve will have for its satellite programme.

SES was planning to use a Proton rocket to launch its 2 (a) satellite — the one that will be used for BSkyB's 200-channel digital launch — in March.

BSkyB, the satellite TV group in which News International, owner of *The Times* has a 40 per cent stake, was due to launch the service in "late spring".

SES does not know at the moment when the Russians will resume their launch programme. An investigation has begun into the problems surrounding the Christmas Eve launch. The final stage of the rocket fired only for a second with the result that the Asia 3 satellite it was carrying failed to get into its required orbit. As a result specialists say the satellite is useless.

SES has been told that Proton launches will not resume until the investigation is complete — a process that could take several months. BSkyB executives believe it is now unlikely that the original satellite will be launched in time to ensure that the digital satellite service arrives on schedule in late April or early June. Even after a satellite is successfully launched, at least six weeks are needed for technical trials before a service can begin.

SES is obliged to provide alternative capacity if for any reason the launch of the main digital satellite is delayed.

Zetters in talks with mystery bidder

BY CHRIS AYRES

ZETTERS has long been a distant third-placed straggler in the football pool markets. But yesterday it was thrust into centre stage when it admitted it was in takeover talks that could end 64 years of independence.

The family-run company is chaired by Paul Zetters and also runs bingo halls spot-the-ball competitions. It has spent recent years fighting against competition from the National Lottery, which has caused devastation in the gaming sector.

The identity of the bidder is unknown, although there was City speculation last night that takeover talks could involve David Hudd, chairman of Vardon, the leisure group, whose job will disappear after the sale of its Ritz bingo clubs division.

Zetters, which hinted last month that is might accept a takeover bid, distanced itself from the speculation. A spokesman said: "It is emphasised that these discussions are of a very preliminary nature. A further announcement will be made when appropriate."

Zetters, along with Vernons and Littlewoods, has lobbied vociferously to create fairer competition between the private sector and the National Lottery. It eventually helped to lift a ban on television and radio advertising for gambling companies. However, in spite of innovations such as introducing pools to pubs and launching an Internet gambling site where punters pay by credit card, Zetters has seen its pools business decline.

The negative effect of the National Lottery forced the company to make a strategic about-turn last year and re-enter the market for bingo halls with the £6.5 million purchase of three outlets from Leisure Workshop. Most of the halls are former suburban cinemas serving small communities. The acquisition followed its sale of 30 bingo outlets in 1988 to Bass, the brewer. Any potential bidder for Zetters is likely to have a significant interest in the bingo sector.

Zetters, founded in 1934, came to the market in 1980. Its shares fell from about 150p in 1994 to just 91p in August, but yesterday closed up 7p, at 158½p.

Tempus, page 26

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Jobs has hope for buoyed up Apple faithful

BY OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK

THE MacWorld trade show is the computer industry equivalent of a Moonies convention. Every half year the remaining followers of the ailing Apple Mac sect congregate to reaffirm their faith. Yes, yes, they declaim ours is the right direction, everyone else is doing the devil's work . . . never mind that Mac sales have been dwindling for years.

This week 3,000 faithful turned up at MacWorld in San Francisco. They gathered at stalls littered with glossy brochures promising a glorious future for the project. Impromptu debates in aisles stopped in mid-sentence when the supreme leader Steve Jobs, the Apple founder and interim chief executive, entered. As he does at every MacWorld, he delivered the keynote speech.

And Mr Jobs had good news to tell. After a rambling speech about the future of technology, he reached his climax. The beloved company had returned to profitability at the year end. The crowds broke into loud, wailing cheers. Wall Street followed suit and boosted Apple's share price by 20 per cent, though it came back today with a hangover.

But many heretics still harbour fears that this is a false dawn. Jim Poyner, an analyst at CIBC Oppenheimer, said: "This doesn't mean they are back with regard to market share or overall unit shipments. They are ahead of schedule on the cost side but you still don't know how sustainable it is." Daniel Kunstler at Morgan Stanley asked: "Is it the turning point? I don't think I can say." And Andrew Neff at Bear Stearns said: "They still have a lot to do. They have to develop a growth plan."

Apple is still a hopeless outsider in the computer world. Its machines are no longer completely incompatible with mainstream computers like IBM. Microsoft has begun to supply software to Apple and even took a $150 million equity stake in the company last year. But this has not solved Apple's problem that few people want a computer of limited compatibility in the age of the Internet.

The computer industry is awash with rumours that Microsoft is giving money indiscriminately to Apple design companies to develop new products that would keep Apple afloat. Trade shows like MacWorld are said to be the main focus of Microsoft's benign spies.

But Apple has a problem even Microsoft cannot solve. Mr Jobs has yet to announce whether he will stay on as the company's leader. Apple had set a deadline of December 31 to decide on its leadership. MacWorld would have been the perfect opportunity to announce a decision. Instead Mr Jobs walked out of an interview with CNBC, the business television station, when he was asked about his position. Even that was forgiven by the faithful.

Gold slumps to new low amid bank sell-off fears

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GOLD prices slumped to a new 18-year low yesterday as fears of further central bank sell-offs continued to depress the market.

Oil prices also tumbled once more as Iraq prepared to resume exports, while Asian markets struggled to withstand the latest regional currency sell-off.

Gold fixed at $281.60 an ounce in afternoon trading — its lowest since July 1979. Traders said that gold prices were holding just above the psychologically important $280 level but there was little to prevent it falling towards $260 unless producers took action to cut production.

The latest decline in the oil market, which has now fallen by 25 per cent in three months, was triggered by reports that Iraq could begin exporting oil as soon as this weekend, coupled with an increase in Kuwaiti output to meet its new Opec quota. Brent February futures hit $15.49 a barrel — a 30-month low — with traders predicting prices could decline to $14 a barrel.

In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng index slumped 5.9 per cent, to 9,538.61, as regional currency problems threatened the Hong Kong dollar and forced a rise in interest rates.

Rafael Hui, Hong Kong secretary for financial services, said the authorities remain prepared to raise interest rates again to protect the currency peg to the US dollar. However, he added that he did not expect rates to reach the levels seen in October — when overnight rates hit a record 300 per cent — following speculative attacks on the currency.

The fall in the Hong Kong market prompted a renewed bout of nerves in Western markets. In New York, the Dow Jones slid around 100 points, to 7,800, in morning trading after a spate of profit downgrades. The FTSE 100 in London closed down 40.3, at 5,224.1.

In Indonesia, disappointment with the budget plans announced on Tuesday and concern over reports that the IMF is unhappy with the pace of reform, pushed the rupiah to a record low of 8,200. The Malaysian ringgit also hit a record low of 4.88 to the dollar.

But intervention by the Malaysian central bank and rumours that Japan is looking to organise more concerted currency intervention in the region helped Asian currencies to recover a little ground in late trading.



Trevor Evans, left, chief executive of the Institution of Chemical Engineers, with Gordon Campbell, of Courtaulds

Courtaulds ends patent dispute

BY PAUL DURMAN

COURTAULDS, the chemicals company, has resolved one of the doubts about Tencel, its revolutionary fibre, by settling the patent dispute it has spent five years fighting with Lenzing of Austria.

Tencel, which Courtaulds has spent £300 million developing, creates highly versatile breathable fabrics, that feel like silk but are robust enough to allow machine-washing.

The Austrian fibres company has developed its own version, which it calls Lenzing Lyocell. Although Courtaulds was much quicker to begin commercial production, Lenzing had claimed that the British company's method of processing the fibre relied on a piece of equipment that was covered by a Lenzing patent.

As heralded last July, Courtaulds and Lenzing have agreed to pool the 130 patents involved in the production of Tencel/Lyocell by cross-licensing them. Neither company will need to make royalty or other payments. Leo Fernüller, a Lenzing director, said both companies accepted they could have faced years of legal wrangling, even if the first dispute could have been resolved.

The two companies developed the same production process, having both licensed from Akzo Nobel the technology to extract cellulose from wood pulp. Gordon Campbell, Courtaulds chief executive, said the chances that Courtaulds and Lenzing had inadvertently infringed each other's patents was quite high.

Courtaulds, which is investing £120 million in a new Tencel plant in Grimsby, hopes to lift its production to 100,000 tonnes a year by 1999. Lenzing began commercial production last July with a 12,000-tonne line, and plans to add a further 20,000 tonnes of capacity next year. Most analysts expect sales of Tencel to grow enormously.

Pricing holds key, page 27

Chief solicitor at ICS resigns

THE chief solicitor to the Investors' Compensation Scheme, the ultimate financial safety-net for savers, has quit amid constant criticism from a lobby group made up of disgruntled investors. Kate Moore, senior legal adviser to the ICS for more than six years, is leaving at the end of the month to join the financial services team of KPMG, the firm of accountants. Investors in Knight Williams, the collapsed retirement advisory firm, welcomed her departure. They believe Ms Moore has been a significant obstacle to the settlement of their compensation claims. Hundreds of Knight Williams investors, most of them elderly, are still awaiting compensation even though the ICS declared the firm in default several years ago after the collapse of an earlier compensation procedure initiated by regulators.

Kenneth Jordan, leader of the Knight Williams investors action group (KWIAG), said yesterday: "This demonstrates the pressure being put upon the ICS by KWIAG. I wonder whether this is a sign that the scheme has at last put its house in order." But a spokeswoman for the ICS stressed that Ms Moore simply wanted a new challenge after six-and-a-half years with the compensation body.

Pub lottery curb likely

STEPS to restrict online lottery games in pubs go further than anticipated, according to draft legislation. The proposals, aimed in particular at Pronto!, would limit draws to one per day, not only in premises selling alcohol but airport lounges, railway stations, shops and cafes. The Government thinks a once-daily limit allows fundraising by charities and other societies while preventing frequent and repetitive games that risk encouraging players to gamble extensively and to chase losses. Comments are invited by February 27.

Friends cuts bonus

FRIENDS PROVIDENT, the mutual life insurer, has improved payouts to maturing life policyholders in 1998 but cut some annual bonus rates. For conventional life policies, the declared regular bonus rate is 2.75 per cent (last year, 3 per cent) on the sum assured and 4 per cent (4.5 per cent) on accumulated bonuses. For ordinary £50 a month endowment policies maturing on February 1, the payouts on 25-year policies have risen by £2,500, to £106,000, while on ten-year plans they have remained the same at around £9,900.

McAlpine progresses

ALFRED McALPINE, the building group, said its housing business had made good progress in the second half of the financial year with growth in margins. The margins had improved prior to the integration of Hassall Homes, part of the Raine business acquired in June, and £37 million had been raised from selling non-core Raine businesses. the company said. Its land bank improved with the acquisition of holdings at Cambourne, near Cambridge, while there was an improved order book in UK civil engineering.

Johnson Group disposal

JOHNSON GROUP CLEANERS has sold its US textile rental company for £16.9 million, making a £1.5 million loss on the disposal. The company said it was not prepared to inject the "disproportionate amount" of cash needed to restore the division to financial health, and has agreed terms with Cintas, one of its clients in the US. The disposal is part of an overall strategic review, which concluded that the company should bolster its UK textile division and increase its exposure to washroom serices.

Prelude goes for £1m

THE CHARACTER GROUP has acquired the business of Prelude UK from its joint administrative receivers for £1 million. Prelude, based in Newcastle upon Tyne, is engaged in the design, development and distribution of children's character-related toiletries and accessories primarily for British and European markets. In the audited accounts to March 31, 1996, sales amounted to £3.5 million, the loss before tax was £50,000 and net assets were £146,000. The acquired business will trade as Prelude Worldwide Ltd.

France 'must sell stake'

FRANCE will have to put at least Fr3 billion (£300 million) worth of shares in Air France on the market to make the stock liquid enough for trading, sources at the Transport Ministry said. France plans to sell 10 to 20 per cent in Air France after June 1998 and to float another 20 per cent stake which will go to staff. The latter includes a 10 per cent share for the airline's pilots in exchange for a 15 per cent wage cut. Because there is no official valuation of the company, the ministry declined to say what percentage of the total share capital the Fr3 billion would represent.

Granada expansion plan

GRANADA, the media and hotels group, is to invest more than £100 million developing its budget Forte Travelodge concept in 25 UK cities by the year 2000. Charles Allen, chief executive, revealed the plans yesterday at the opening of the group's seventh city centre Travelodge, in London's Docklands. The 132-bedroom hotel cost £4.65 million to develop. Mr Allen said a further £50 million had been earmarked for the expansion of the brand's roadside network over the next three years. There are currently more than 160 Travelodges.

Lloyd's reform call

THE Lloyd's Corporate Capital Association (LCCA), whose members speak for 60 per cent of capacity at Lloyd's, wants reforms to the constitution, practices and cost base. It says the constitution is skewed in favour of the minority of traditional unlimited liability names, who hold five out of seven external council seats. The LCCA says the Corporation of Lloyd's cost base continues to rise when revenues are falling, endangering competitiveness, and it wants outside consultants to assist with cost reduction targets. Lloyd's investigates, page 28

EU help sought on R-R sale

BY ADAM JONES

VICKERS has asked the European Commission to stop Rolls-Royce plc, the aero-engines group, from "undermining" the auction of Rolls-Royce Motors.

Vickers put the luxury carmaker up for sale last year, with a price tag of £300 million to £400 million. Vickers claims that Rolls-Royce plc, which was split from Rolls-Royce Motor Cars in 1971, is threatening its chances of getting a good price by saying it effectively has a power of veto over the sale.

A 1973 licence agreement says Rolls-Royce plc can stop a foreign buyer from using the Rolls-Royce name and marque. Vickers claims this is against European law, while Rolls Royce plc maintains it is valid and says it had confirmation from the European Commission in 1973.

However, the Commission said yesterday that the confirmation it sent Rolls-Royce plc in 1973 was a standard "comfort letter" that has no legal value and simply indicated that there were no immediate objections.

There are claims that Rolls-Royce plc is trying to steer the carmaker into the hands of BMW, a business partner. Rolls-Royce has dismissed the suggestion as speculation.

Record for Electronic Boutique

BY FRASER NELSON

LARA CROFT, the digital heroine who stars in *Tomb Raider II*, the best-selling computer game, gave her first fillip to the market after Electronic Boutique, the video game company, returned record Christmas sales.

Christmas presents of Nintendo and Sony games consoles led to strong demand for *Final Fantasy Seven*, an adventure game, and *Fifa 98*, the football game, and helped to lift the company's sales 70 per cent over the period.

Like-for-like sales were up 50 per cent — significantly ahead of expectations.

The company's shares increased 1¼p to a high of 49¾p yesterday, against 20p last January, as dealers upgraded forecasts from £5.5 million to £7 million. Shares of Eidos, the software company that owns the rights to the *Tomb Raider* series, gained 7½p to 1045p.

Electronic Boutique added that it was profiting from the rivalry between Sony and Nintendo. The two Japanese groups have been engaged in a price war since last October in an attempt to gain supremacy in the sector.

Christmas normally makes up 35 per cent of the company's annual turnover.

US investment bank duo announce record profits

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BOOM times have returned to Wall Street, with two of the biggest US investment banks reporting record profits.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Discover, formed by a merger of an investment bank and credit card company last year, reported record fourth-quarter profits of $810 million (£500 million).

The 79 per cent increase in profits was largely attributed to the performance of the group's securities business, where gains reached $620 million, double the level in the same quarter in 1996. But the Discover credit card business fared less well. Net income for credit and transaction services declined 9 per cent to $79 million as provisions for loan losses increased and marketing expenses rose.

In the year to November 30, net income jumped 35 per cent to $2.65 billion, excluding costs associated with the merger. Net revenues hit a record $14.8 billion, up 24 per cent.

The company said: "We were faced with some difficult markets in the fourth quarter, particularly the continuing financial problems in Asian markets, but overall we came through with flying colours."

Lehman Brothers, the Wall Street investment bank which many see as a takeover target, also announced record figures, a 56 per cent increase in year-end net income to $647 million. Net revenues rose 12 per cent to $3.87 billion.

The fourth quarter saw earnings rise 46 per cent to $185 million. Richard S Fuld, chairman and chief executive officer, said this reflected "continued strength in all our major businesses".

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.83	2.48
Austria Sch	21.86	20.19
Belgium Fr	64.20	59.24
Canada $	2.452	2.264
Cyprus Cypf	0.910	0.836
Denmark Kr	11.86	10.97
Finland Mkk	9.51	8.78
France Fr	10.57	9.59
Germany Dm	3.12	2.88
Greece Dr	494	455
Hong Kong $	13.40	12.20
Iceland	130	110
Ireland Pr	1.24	1.15
Israel Shk	6.17	5.52
Italy Lire	2083	2849
Japan Yen	228.73	211.20
Malta	0.690	0.621
Netherlds Gld	3.525	3.251
New Zealand $	2.89	2.75
Norway Kr	12.73	11.85
Portugal Esc	315.03	293.09
S Africa Rd	8.72	7.78
Spain Pta	282.29	263.50
Sweden Kr	13.86	12.76
Switzerland Fr	2.55	2.39
Turkey Lira	346771	320959
USA $	1.731	1.598

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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Rough ride for Rolls-Royce sale

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

The Rolls-Royce Action Committee meets today for the first time, its avowed intention being to stop the carmaker falling into foreign hands. Quite how the members believe they can convince Vickers to share this xenophobic attitude is a mystery. Vickers and its shareholders are not in the mood to sacrifice a decent price to keep Rolls-Royce British.

But while the RR Action Committee's calls are likely to go unheeded, if Rolls-Royce plc, the aero-engines manufacturer, chooses to adopt a mood of nationalistic fervour, it could cause Vickers major problems. The public eruption of the squabble between the two companies indicates that Vickers may have been pushed into offering Rolls-Royce for auction a little prematurely.

The decision to sell the luxury carmaker was announced late last year, shortly before Vickers "outed" Mayflower as a potential predator. The news of the imminent disposal gave the Vickers board, led by Sir Colin Chandler, ammunition in their battle to persuade shareholders that they intended to improve on the poor share performance. That would prove useful in the face of an attack from an upstart opportunist such as Mayflower.

In fact, Mayflower was rapidly seen off by BMW, a major Vickers customer, which, influenced perhaps by its own thoughts of taking over RR cars, intimated that its business with Vickers could be brought to an abrupt halt should ownership change. Brave but not foolhardy, Mayflower withdrew.

We need not ponder how the Rolls-Royce Action Committee would have reacted to their treasured marque being acquired by the nouveau Mayflower. But Rolls-Royce plc does claim the right to veto buyers of the brand.

The company, split off in 1971, maintains that its valuable brand name should not be sullied by the carmaker falling into the hands of *the wrong sort of chap*. Indeed, the terms of a 1973 licence agreement do say clearly that it can stop a foreign buyer from using the Rolls-Royce name and the RR marque on cars. Although this does not extend to Bentley, the famed Silver Lady or the distinctive Rolls-Royce radiator grille, the veto would still be enough to scupper a deal.

Vickers, aware that this stranglehold could hit the price raised at auction, has countered by saying that the agreement unfairly restricts competition and is contrary to European law. Consenting adults may have agreed the terms of the contract but that was then and Vickers and its lawyers are confident that the wisdom of Europe would allow them to slough off obligations no longer convenient.

Should the issue ever reach the courts it could be many months before a decision is reached. The chances are that Vickers would not wish to risk such a delay in offering shareholders the promised sale, so RR plc may be preparing to give in gracefully, and for just a little cash.

Own goal for Revenue

The heavily moustachioed Desmond Lynam, presenter of *Match of the Day*, and the lesser-known comedienne Gayle Tuesday were not enough of a stick in the Government's drive to compel nine million to fill in their own tax returns under the new self-assessment tax regime. The Revenue's multimillion-pound advertising campaign, which also featured the condescending cartoon character, Hector the Tax Inspector, resplendent in pin stripes and bowler hat, has to date only managed to encourage 5.6 million people to send their forms back.

With only 23 days to go before the final deadline for submitting the form and final payment for last year, the Revenue yesterday wheeled out yet another grade C celebrity, Rory McGrath, star of *They Think It's All Over*, to try to drum up a little more interest in the ghastly business of filling in the return. Football analogies abounded as officials tried to persuade the public not to risk a penalty.

The Revenue claims that self-assessment has been a resounding success, although it is difficult to reconcile this with the figure of 3.4 million who have still to return the forms. It also claims that the forms that have been filled in contain few errors, although 50,000 are still outstanding because of mistakes. The most common errors include mixing up net and gross, and a Freudian failure to sign.

Despite the Revenue's boasts of success, the department has been forced to open its doors at the weekend for the first time for more than 35 years to help the baffled.

The puzzlement of the public at large will, however, help to line the Treasury's coffers. Instant £100 fines are to be meted out to those who do not file on time. If only a third miss this all-important date, then the Government stands to gain a sizeable sum of more than £100 million. Further revenue will be amassed in interest on unpaid tax, while a surcharge will be applied to those who fail to file their returns by the end of next month.

The stated aim of this Government is the same as the previous one — it wants to simplify the UK's horrendously complicated tax sytem.

With taxpayers making fundamental errors about the difference between net and gross, the Revenue will need more than a TV presenter, an infuriating cartoon character, and a comedy actress to ensure that this attempt at simplification is not something of an own goal.

Oil misjudgment is good for Eddie

Gold is not the only commodity that is losing its sparkle. The price of oil has fallen by a quarter in just three months and analysts predict barrel prices will continue to head lower.

Opec must take a lot of the blame for the collapse in prices. The oil producers organisation agreed in December to raise annual output by 10 per cent despite the market turmoil in Asia pointing to an inevitable slowdown in global demand for oil. El Niño, the Pacific weather phenomenon, has not helped either, causing an unusually mild winter in North America, which has enabled householders to cut their heating bills.

Opec's misjudgment has been compounded this week by the United Nations decision to allow Iraq to resume oil exports for food. The UN has permitted Iraq to raise $2 billion (£1.2 billion) from exports over the next six months, meaning that the actual volumes will rise if the oil price continues to slide. The consequent flood of oil onto the market has rather strained the normally fraternal relations between Opec members and led to accusations that Saudia Arabia, Opec's strongest member, is attempting to steal market share with aggressive pricing.

However, the Bank of England will not be too upset that Opec appears to have got its sums wrong. The spike in prices during the autumn showed up clearly in the inflation figures and the recent decline can only help to make Eddie George's inflation-busting task easier.

Counter-productive

A THOUGHT for the monetary policy committee as it prepares to pronounce on interest rates. Do not be over influenced by the rash of trading statements issuing from the nation's retailers. These tend to be less illuminating than fairy lights, based on various time scales and calculations. One former retailer confesses that his statisticians traditionally offered a choice of five Christmas trading figures from which he could select.



Roy Gardner intends to offer to cut bills by 15 per cent when Centrica enters the electricity market later this year

Centrica brings an end to take-or-pay problems

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

CENTRICA, the energy distributor which sells under the brand name British Gas, finally said goodbye to its costly take-or-pay problems with the settlement of a further contract and the exit of its chief contracts negotiator.

The departure of Ken Gardener, who was drafted in two years ago to the then undemerged British Gas, signals the end of the massive contracts problems under which the company was obliged to buy gas at a far more expensive rate than that at which it could sell the fuel.

The company has spent about £1 billion on renegotiating contracts with oil companies:contracts that once looked likely to jeopardise the business.

Yesterday's deal with Chevron, struck at a cost to Centrica that City analysts estimate to be about £13 million, was one of the smaller settlements, although the contract had demanded particularly high prices for gas taken. The agreement comes in the wake of large breakthrough deals with Conoco, Elf, Total, BP and Mobil.

Mr Gardener, 70, will return to Charterhouse Bank as an executive director. While he has been working on the take-or-pay contracts he has performed non-executive duties at Charterhouse.

Roy Gardner, chief executive of Centrica, said: "Ken has made an outstanding contribution to the resolution of the legacy of our take-or-pay contracts. Over two years he has successfully led a number of complex renegotiations with suppliers and has performed an important role for the Centrica team."

In total, Centrica has renegotiated price and volume commitments on 46.5 billion therms of gas. The company does not expect to announce further significant new deals with the oil companies.

Since Mr Gardner's arrival as chief executive of the supply half of the old British Gas, which became Centrica early last year, the company has sought to reposition itself. It has been forced to fight rival companies for household business as regions of the country have been opened up to competition.

The company, which introduces nationwide price cuts for many of its customers next week, has surprised many industry watchers by keeping more customers than had been expected.

Later this year it will begin selling electricity as that market opens to competition. Centrica is the only national non-electricity company so far to announce a move into the market.

Tempus, page 26

Expectations exceeded at AG Barr

SHARES in AG Barr jumped 3 per cent yesterday as record profits showed that the soft drinks manufacturer was still reaping rewards from lower raw material costs and a new factory (Jennifer Hanawald writes).

A strong performance from Orangina and Irn Bru helped to lift pre-tax profit, which was up 15 per cent to £10.8 million. This easily exceeded market expectations of about £9 million. Sales rose to £110 million, up from £103 million.

Cheaper sugar and polyethylene prices and low-cost production at the new Cumbernauld factory helped to boost margins.

The second interim dividend was 7p, bringing the 12-month total to 11p against 8.65p last year. The group is changing its year end to January 31.

Cookson to take £36m charge

By Carl Mortished

COOKSON, the conglomerate that recently lost its chairman, Richard Oster, is to take a £36 million exceptional charge after the sale and shutdown of the operations of Plantpak, a business that makes plastic flower pots. Cookson is selling the UK end of the business to Synbra, a Dutch plastic products group, while the Dutch and French facilities are to be shut down.

The retreat from Plantpak should be soon followed by more restructuring. Stephen Howard, Cookson's chief executive, said that more news of the group's strategy would be revealed in March. He said: "We want to be in leading positions in each of our markets and avoid this continuing price erosion."

Cookson's share price rose on news of the deal but it has suffered in recent months from the turmoil in Asian markets, mainly because of its perceived exposure to the electronics industry.

The proceeds from the sale and closure will amount to £12 million but the group will suffer a £36 million exceptional loss including a £24 million write-back of the goodwill associated with the original purchase. Plantpak had turnover of £15 million in the half year to June and recorded a loss of £0.3 million. The company said the deal would have little effect on group financial gearing.

Cookson said yesterday that it had completed the sale of its pool products distribution business. Mr Howard said that the disposals would allow the Speciality Mouldings sector to concentrate on core activities such as plastic pallets.

Tempus, page 26

GWB plans to float Quantica

GWB, the industrial corporate developer, yesterday reported another rise in profits and said that it planned to float Quantica, its recently formed recruitment and training business, later this year (Chris Ayres writes).

GWB's pre-tax profits for the year to October 31 were up 63 per cent, from £13 million to £21 million, on turnover of £55 million, down from £59 million.

Earnings per share were up 44 per cent, from 11.07p to 16p. A final dividend of 1.2p will be paid on March 13, bringing the total dividend for the year to 2.4p (0.32p).

However, the City was unimpressed by yesterday's results and GWB's shares slumped 8p to 114½p before recovering to 119p.

Dalgety fills finance post

By Chris Ayres

DALGETY, the troubled manufacturer of Felix and Winalot pet food, yesterday appointed Andrew Allner as finance director.

Mr Allner, 44, who was previously finance director of Nycomed Amersham, succeeds Ken Hanna, who took over as Dalgety's chief executive in September after the departure of Richard Clothier.

Mr Allner will be given an 18-month contract and paid an estimated £200,000, with the potential to earn a further £100,000 if he achieves profit targets and other objectives. He will also be given share options.

Mr Hanna said yesterday: "I worked with Andrew for three years at Guinness and thought he had right technical skills and personal style. He's hard-working, communicative, open, and good with people. He will fit in very well."

The appointment boosted Dalgety shares 4½p to 279½p. The company has had a disastrous recent track record, with the shares plummeting to a low of 222½p in July last year, compared with a trading price of more than 500p in 1994.

Dalgety is still waiting to sell its food ingredients division for an estimated £300 million, with Associated British Foods, Kerry and Greencore all believed to be ready to make offers.

Triad promises good news

By Jennifer Hanawald

DIRECTORS of Triad Group revealed yesterday that its first-half figures due on Monday will come as good news to investors.

In response to the 30 per cent increase in its share price over the past month, the computer software and systems consultancy company said that Monday's figures will be significantly better than market expectations.

One analyst said the announcement was not much of a surprise, but suggested it could have come a bit earlier.

Another analyst, Ian Spence of Granville Davies, said that he would not be surprised if the company achieved next year's forecasts this year. He was expecting pre-tax profit of £3.5 million for the year ending March 1998, and £4.5 million for the following year.

On Monday he expects to see a strong performance from the IT staffing side of the business and will be looking to see if the software solutions side has won any large contracts.

Following the announcement, the shares rose another 6.5 per cent, to 346p.

The company has more than doubled its value since it was floated at 135p almost two years ago, in March 1996.

Millennium wait over for Wilson

By Dominic Walsh

MILLENNIUM & Copthorne Hotels has confirmed the appointment of John Wilson, formerly chief operating officer of Hilton International, as chief executive after resolving the debacle that prevented him from joining last year.

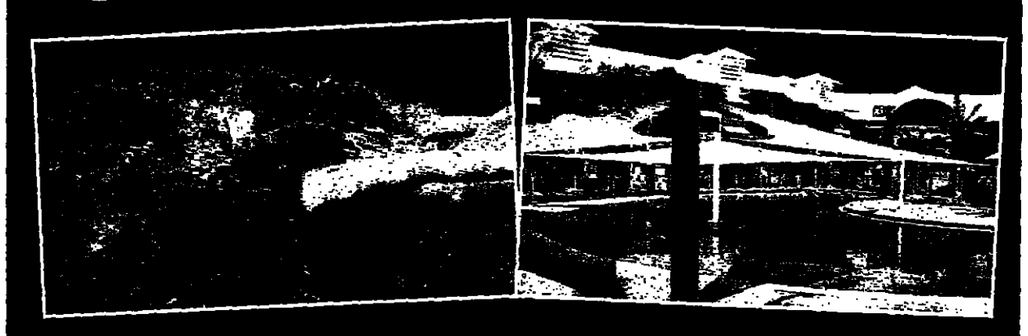
As *The Times* reported last week, Mr Wilson was originally due to take up the post six months ago, but was prevented from joining after contractual wranglings with Ladbroke, Hilton's parent.

John O'Shea, appointed managing director in the wake of the dispute, is to return to his previous job as chief operating officer of CDL Hotels International, the Singaporean group that has a controlling stake in Millennium. David Cook, finance director of Millennium, denied that Mr O'Shea had been merely an interim appointment.

The company has also appointed its first main board director with responsibility for sales and marketing. Vincent Yeo joins next month from CDL Hotels New Zealand.

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CHANGING TIMES

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK



Stock Market Writer of the Year

BP bucks the trend as oil shares skid lower

EVERY cloud has a silver lining, as **British Petroleum** has discovered. Its shares raced up 13p to 778p yesterday as no fewer than three leading brokers came out with "buy" recommendations.

On Tuesday, the shares fell sharply, reflecting the slump in the price of North Sea Brent crude for February delivery to a 27-month low. Some brokers clearly saw the weakness as an opportunity to add to their holdings.

Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, reckons BP remains the best play in the sector, while Goldman Sachs is also a buyer of the shares. Morgan Stanley has raised its recommendation from "neutral" to "outperform".

BP was the second heaviest traded stock among the top 100 companies, with almost 25 million shares changing hands by the close.

This enthusiasm did not boil over into the rest of the sector, which continues to try to come to terms with a falling oil price. **Shell** slipped another 6½p to 419½p, **Cairn Energy** 7½p to 484½p, **Ranger Oil** 5p to 405p, and **Arcon International** 4p to 27p.

Neil Reid at NatWest Markets, the broker, says the markdown in the oil sector has been overdone. He rates Lasmo a "buy" and has changed "hold" on Enterprise to "add".

The rest of the equity market went into reverse after six consecutive days of gains. Fresh overight falls in Asian markets and a 100 point-plus opening fall for the Dow Jones industrial average took their toll on London. The FTSE 100 index closed just above its low point of the session, 40.3 down at 5,224.1 as a total of 939 million shares were traded.

GEC splashed out almost £18 million, buying back 4.5 million of its own shares at 395p. The move is part of a £300 million programme announced last month. The price finished 7½p lower at 394½p.

Speculative buying lifted **Asda** 6¼p to 185¾p and **Safeway** 3½p to 345½p. Word is the merger talks may be back on again soon.

Rexam fell 16p to 275p as Merrill Lynch cut its pre-tax profits forecast for 1998 by £15 million to £205 million.

Positive comments from both Merrill Lynch and SBC Warburg Dillon Read helped **Booker**, the food distributor, to a rise of 20p at 353½p. PDFM and UBS International have raised their combined stake to 61.7 million, or 24.9 per cent.



David Whelan, of JJB Sports. 31½p higher on sales hopes

Panmure Gordon, the broker, has weighed in with its "top ten" tips for 1998. They include **IMI**, up 6p at 421½p, **TI Group**, 4p better at 504p, **Henlys**, 23p stronger at 463½p, **LucasVarity**, 9½p easier at 209p, **HSBC**, down 89p at £14.93, **Standard Chartered**, 27½p off at 629½p, and **Bovis Homes** ½p cheaper at 201p.

Gallaher, up 20½p at 356½p, is one of the naps for 1998 of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, while positive comments from Panmure Gordon, the broker, helped **National Grid** to a rise of 9p at 313p.

The overnight losses in Asian markets again hit those companies with exposure to the region such as **Cable & Wireless**, down 15p at 535p.

Lloyds TSB was ½p lighter at 794p despite Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, setting a target price for the shares of 900p over the next three months.

JJB Sports jumped 31½p to 680p ahead of what is expected to be a positive Christmas trading statement. The fast growing sports retailer, headed by David Whelan, ex-Blackburn Rovers footballer, has already indicated that trading was "better than for many retailers".

Cookson, which has sold its flower pots division, rose another 3p to 213p, stretching the lead over the past two days to 12½p.

Albright & Wilson rose 9½p to 155½p. The company has been meeting brokers this week and seems to be in upbeat mood.

Fibernet, the communications specialist, stood out with a rise of 13½p at 143½p. Word is the group is about to announce details of a major new contract.

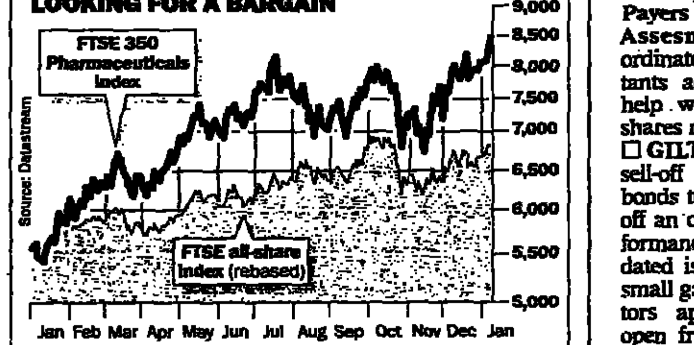
The Inland Revenue reminding the self-employed that the self-assessment deadline is just a few weeks away helped to boost the fortunes of OFEX-quoted **British Tax Payers Association Self Assesment**, which coordinates a network of accountants across the country to help with tax returns. The shares rose 1p to 14½p.

☐ GILT-EDGED: An early sell-off among US Treasury bonds took some of the shine off an otherwise positive performance by gilts. Longer dated issues still ended with small gains on the day. Investors appeared reluctant to open fresh positions, despite traders remaining confident that the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee will not raise rates today.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt lost an early lead to close all-square at £123 in moderate trading.

In longs Treasury 8 per cent 2021 rose £3/16 to £124¼, while Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was unchanged at £102½.

☐ NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks were sharply weaker at midday, pulled lower by investor nervousness over earnings and worries that solutions being hammered out for Asia's financial woes might fall short. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 93.41 points to 7,812.84.



THE biotech companies will be looking for a better year in 1998 than they experienced in 1997.

While the big players in the drug sector were among some of the best performers in the top 100 companies, the smaller biotech companies ended under a cloud. The failure of various drugs, and the inability of some companies to find development partners, left a number of them lower on the year.

But the biotechs still hold fascination for private investors and they seem happy to give them another chance this year. Those to attract the bargin hunters yesterday included Scotia, up 10p at 302½p, which launches an appetite suppressant yoghurt today. Its price fell from a peak of 735p last year. Also wanted was Vanguard Medical, 14p to 449p, British Biotech, 4½p to 117½p, Galen, 6p to 373½p, Proteus International, 4½p to 48p, and Cambridge Antibody, 3½p to 380p.

Greig Middleton, the broker, is encouraged by the new year rally but warns of further volatility in the months ahead.

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	7812.84 (-93.41)
S&P Composite	956.51 (-10.07)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	15028.17 (+131.77)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	9538.61 (-596.90)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	932.02 (+1.79)
Sydney:	
AO	2646.9 (-38.4)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	4391.54 (+38.91)
Singapore:	
Straits	1362.02 (-77.10)
Brussels:	
General	14954.95 (+10.45)
Paris:	
CAC-40	3006.73 (+31.00)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	1292.0 (+2.4)
London:	
FT 30	3359.9 (-31.3)
FTSE 100	5224.1 (-40.3)
FTSE 250	4869.1 (+10.2)
FTSE 350	2512.1 (-14.8)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2791.45 (+12.51)
FTSE All-Share	2451.46 (-13.28)
FTSE Non Financials	2454.26 (-8.43)
FTSE Fixed Interest	137.51 (+0.26)
FTSE Govt Secs	103.07 (+0.07)
Bargains	62142
SEAQ Volume	939.7m
US$	1.6242 (-0.0085)
German Mark	2.9656 (-0.0100)
Exchange Index	104.5 (-0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4999
£:SDR	1.2201
RPI	159.6 Nov (3.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	158.0 Nov (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

Abbey Natl Dublin II	93½	...
Autologic	284½	...
BCO Technologies	201	+ 3½
Bond Intl Software	82½	- 4
Boustead	19½	...
Comland Comm	59	...
Energis (290)	267½	...
Flmg Geared Units	183½	+ ½
General Inds	35½	...
Gooch & Housego	141½	+ 5
Longmead (135)	144½	...
Marchpole	106½	...
Market Link Publ	55	...
Northern Rcrtmnt	139½	...
Optoplast	144½	...
Property Asset	7	...
Range Cooker	6½	...
Rapid Technology	94½	...
Razorback Vehicles	102½	...
SCS Upholstery	112½	+ 1
Second Scot Zr Dv Pf	100¼	+ ¼
Second Scottish Natl	105½	+ ½
Symer	231½	...
Vanguard Med Wts	77½	+ 11½
Wyndham Motor	111½	...

Bodyct Int n/p (300)	413½	+ 32
Calluna n/p (9)	2	...

RISES:	
Real Time	350p (+25p)
Blick	320p (+22½p)
SDX Bus Sys	220½p (+15p)
Booker	353½p (+20p)
Henlys	463½p (+23p)
JJB Sports	680p (+31½p)
Londn & Man	526p (+21p)
FALLS:	
Dawson Hldgs	178p (-39p)
Liberty	325p (-30p)
Orange	251p (-13p)
Rio Tinto	736p (-37p)
BOC	987p (-48p)
Regent Inns	308½p (-14p)
EMI	510p (-23p)
Dixons Gp	577p (-19p)
Hays	831p (-27p)
Vodafone	445p (-14p)
Bass	935p (-29p)

Closing Prices Page 29

Pump up the majors

When falling oil prices reach the consciousness of consumers, you can expect rage about profiteering oil companies. However, the connection between crude oil and the price of a litre of unleaded is not so simple. Gasoline is a commodity and if pump prices are not falling it has more to do with the wholesale price at refinery gates in the UK and Rotterdam, than the machinations of the retailers. But for an investor in oil stocks, focusing on the downstream effect of cheaper crude is as important as the loss of margin to an upstream producer selling a barrel of oil.

The share prices of integrated companies like BP and Shell have been hammered alongside the pure explorers. However, the damaging effect of $15 oil on these companies is partly offset by better margins from refining and petrochemicals as their input costs are lower. The higher margins will not last forever — there is still far too much refining capacity in the northern hemisphere and a mild winter has left product inventories high. However, downstream profits should improve in the first two quarters.

The underlying question is whether crude oil prices will remain subdued. Lower demand from Asia and a mildish winter could take their toll but US demand in buoyant and European demand should rise. Opec production is increasing but the wild card is non-Opec output. Most estimates of Western oil production have in the past been wildly over-optimistic, based as they are on bullish oil company forecasts. The industry is running its upstream business on a knife-edge of tight budgets and deadlines. These will slip again, another argument to avoid explorers and stick with the majors.

Cookson

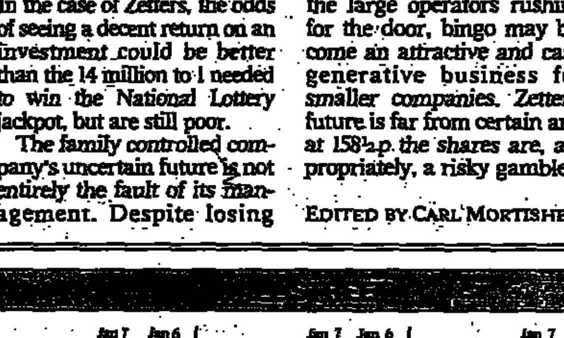
COOKSON'S chief executive reckons that leading market positions are a better bet when price disinflation is a major problem. Result: out go flower pots. But is it unfair to question why Cookson ever thought that being big in plastic flower pots was a worthwhile and defendable strategy?

For Cookson investors, the good news is that such questions are being asked and a chunk of other assets are probably for the chop. The remaining worry is whether further disposals will occasion another round of exceptional losses.

Cookson is also under some pressure to find a solution to its joint venture in ceramics, with Johnson Matthey, where weak markets for tiles have kept the price of its coatings under pressure. A sale at this stage would be a mistake so more restructuring and the accompanying costs look likely.

But the real headache for Cookson could be Asia. So far, little if any damage is being done in its electronic materials and equipment businesses. Cookson has no exposure to Korea or Indonesia and it reckons the Asian currency turmoil could even lead to bigger exports of Asian-made PCs, thus helping suppliers like Cookson.

But Asia's market for electronic goods is sagging and Cookson also supplies equipment to manufacturers in Asia who now have less dollars to invest. Cookson looks cheap on 11 times earnings but the upside is limited.



Centrica

TWO years after British Gas brought in a take-or-pay troubleshooter to help sort out one of its many problems, the consumer half of the business has grown into a very different beast.

The demerged Centrica has proved more resilient, more resourceful and more far-sighted than almost anyone was prepared to give it credit for. Even a year ago when it bade farewell to the pipelines business things did not look too rosy. The company was facing escalating erosion of its domestic monopoly, was groaning under the weight of expensive gas supply contracts and had to cope with the aftermath of the chaos that had coursed through its service and billing operations.

Those problems have largely been laid to rest and Centrica is proving to be less a gas utility than an effective energy marketing company with a huge franchise to exploit. It has already preserved more of its share in the deregulating domestic gas market than anyone believed possible and will soon be selling electricity.

Centrica retains an ace up its sleeve in Morecambe Bay, the gasfield which could be sold to fund further investment. Boasting most of the nation's households as customers, a slice of Morecambe Bay might well be sacrificed for a new marketing business. There is little downside and much potential upside. Worth a buy.

Zetters

BETTING chains love to boast that their odds are better than those of the National Lottery. In the case of Zetters, the odds of seeing a decent return on an investment could be better than the 14 million to 1 needed to win the National Lottery jackpot, but are still poor.

The family controlled company's uncertain future is not entirely the fault of its management. Despite losing three directors in one year, Zetters has attempted to defend its business from unfair government competition and has won some important battles. It has introduced pub pools and Internet gambling to attract new punters.

In addition, and like the Grand Old Duke of York, the company marched back into the bingo market having marched out eight years previously. The move was a surprising success and bingo could become its most attractive business. However, the bingo industry, too, has a far from certain future. It has an aging consumer franchise which also competes with the lottery for discretionary spending. But with most of the large operators rushing for the door, bingo may become an attractive and cash generative business for smaller companies. Zetter's future is far from certain and at 158½p the shares are, appropriately, a risky gamble.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	1064-1063	May	1194-1190
May	1087-1086	Jul	1208 BID
Jul	1108-1107	Sep	1217 BID
Sep	1129-1128	Dec	unq
Dec	1154-1152		
Mar	1180-1177	Volume:	3316

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	1750 SLR	Sep	1690-1685
Mar	1710-1705	Nov	1682 SLR
May	1698-1690	Jan	1687 SLR
Jul	1693 SLR	Volume:	3603

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	305.4-05.1
Spot: 300.2		Dec	306.0-05.0
Mar	303.0-03.5	Mar	310.0-08.0
May	307.4-07.1	May	313.0-11.0
Aug	309.5-09.2	Volume:	1712

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on January 6

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	66.37	87.67	91.29
(+/-)	-3.23	+1.98	-0.70
Eng/Wales	69.31	89.19	90.02
(+/-)	-2.23	+2.71	-0.98
(%)	-20.0	-20.0	+34.0
Scotland	61.58	82.12	96.19
(+/-)	-24.42	+0.86	-0.96
(%)	n/c	-23.0	+81.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	15.30	-0.20
Brent 15 day (Feb)	15.85	-0.15
Brent 15 day (Mar)	16.00	-0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	17.00	-0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	17.20	-0.05

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	167 (-3)	169 (-3)
Gasoil EEC	144 (-1)	146 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	75 (n/c)	77 (n/c)
Naphtha	157 (-2)	159 (-2)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jan	142.75-43.00	Apr	147.25 BID
Feb	144.25-44.50	May	149.00-49.50
Mar	146.00-46.25	Vol:	28832

BRENT (6.00pm)

Feb	15.80-15.82	May	16.30 SLR
Mar	15.94-15.95	Jun	16.40-16.45
Apr	16.11-16.13	Vol:	59514

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	86.15	Jan	74.50
Mar	82.50	Mar	77.25
May	84.50	May	78.25
Jul	86.50	Sep	77.75
Sep	80.50	Nov	79.75
Volume:	257	Volume:	85

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	82.0
Apr	107.0	98.0
May	117.0	108.0
	Volume:	113

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/kg)

Feb 42.75-43.00

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jan 98	1200	1190	1200
Feb 98	1195	1195	1205
Mar 98	—	—	1215
Apr 98	1270	1270	1270
Vol: 15 lots		Open Interest:	1610

Index 1226 -2

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1655.5-1656.0	1685.0-1686.0	186037
Lead ($/tonne)	548.00-549.00	554.00-555.00	25250
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1060.0-1061.0	1080.0-1081.0	72327
Tin ($/tonne)	5335.0-5340.0	5330.0-5340.0	20915
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1456.0-1457.0	1485.0-1486.0	259585
Nickel ($/tonne)	5675.0-5680.0	5770.0-5775.0	142176

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
ASDA	180	9	16½	20	3	8	10
(*185½)	200	1½	8	11½	15½	19	21½
Abbey Nat	1100	51	98½	131	19	66	85
(*1128½)	1150	24½	73	106	43	91½	110
All&Leic	800	36½	64½	83½	6	31	41½
(*828)	850	10½	40	57½	29½	56½	66
Alld Dom	500	37½	57	70	1½	14½	21
(*536½)	550	8	29½	46	19	36	44
BAA	460	39½	57½	68	1	12	21
(*497)	500	11	34	45½	12½	28	37½
BAT Ind	550	41½	63½	76½	4	28½	37½
(*585½)	600	12	37	52	24	55	63
Barclays	1700	50	129	162	45½	115½	143
(*1703½)	1800	15	87½	138	109½	174	199½
Bass	900	46½	83	97	8	34	44
(*935)	950	15½	54½	72	25½	57	67
Boots	900	24	71	85	16	41½	56
(*907½)	950	7	48	63	46½	69	82
Br Airwys	600	18	49	65	13	33	44
(*606)	650	2½	27½	44	45½	60½	72½
BP	750	25½	66	87½	3½	32	46
(*775)	800	10½	41½	62½	32½	56½	70½
Br Steel	130	6	12½	15½	2½	8	13
(*133)	140	1½	8	12	8½	13	19
C&W	500	39	58	71½	3	19½	28½
(*534½)	550	9	32	46	23½	42½	53
CU	900	37½	75	93½	23	78	87½
(*900)	950	14	55	72½	60½	106½	112
GlaxoW	1500	64	130½	170	24½	83	105
(*1538)	1600	19	85½	122	79	138½	157
HSBC	1450	84½	168½	215	34	124	151½
(*1499½)	1500	56	143	191½	56	150	177½
Halifax	750	31	55	74½	4½	31	36
(*776)	800	5½	31	50	29½	58	62
ICI	950	42	75½	102	11	47	64
(*979)	1000	15½	50½	76½	34½	71½	89
Land Sec	1000	25½	60	80	21½	43	62½
(*1007½)	1050	8½	37½	57	54½	71	90½
M&S	600	17	43	56½	11	27	40
(*603½)	650	3	22	35	47	55	67
Natl Pwr	600	29	53	70½	7½	25½	38½
(*619½)	650	6	35	47	34½	51	65
Nat West	1050	42½	82½	111½	29½	81	91
(*1057)	1100	23½	61	88½	59	109½	118½
Reuters	650	37½	63	86½	4½	28	39
(*679½)	700	9½	37½	62	26½	51½	60
Ryl&Sun	650	13	50	62	18½	49	58½
(*651)	700	1	32	41½	52	79½	88½
Safeway	330	19	34½	41½	3½	12½	17½
(*345)	360	5	21	28	18	25½	33
Sainsbury	500	15	36	48	8	22	32½
(*504½)	550	1	17	25½	46	52½	67½
Shell	417	11½	—	—	10½	—	—
(*418)	433	6	—	—	19½	—	—
SmKl Bch	825	28	59	—	10	38	—
(*840½)	850	14½	47	67	21½	48	62
Std Char	600	43	62	92½	11½	36½	56
(*628½)	650	15	37	68½	36	63	79½
Thames W	850	50	80	99	3½	20	32½
(*825)	900	15½	51	70	19½	40	53½
Vodafone	420	30½	53	67½	6	19½	32½
(*446)	460	7½	32	48	25	33	52½
Woolwich	330	13½	24½	32	4½	15½	18½
(*338)	360	2	11	18½	23½	32½	35½
Zeneca	2200	62	145½	212½	48	116½	191½
(*2221½)	2300	20½	99½	169½	97½	170½	202½

	Series	Calls Feb	May	Aug	Puts Feb	May	Aug
BTR	180	12½	18½	25½	8½	16	20½
(*184½)	200	4½	11	17½	20	28	32½
Blue Circ	330	21½	28½	37½	10	20	26
(*338)	360	8½	12½	24½	27	37½	43
Br Aero	1700	118	172	226½	33½	76½	102½
(*1769)	1800	63½	127	176	76	124	150½
Br Telcm	455	34½	—	—	8	—	—
(*490)	515	9	—	—	21	—	—
Cadbury	600	44½	60	70½	7½	24	29
(*632½)	650	16½	34½	45	30½	49½	53½
Energy Gp	650	43½	57½	58	4	6½	12
(*685½)	700	9½	16	17½	19½	24	31½
Gallaher	330	34	41½	46½	5½	14½	17
(*357)	360	15	23½	30½	17½	28	31
GEC	390	17½	30½	39½	12	20	29½
(*395)	420	6	17½	26½	31	37	47

	Series	Calls Feb	May	—	Puts Feb	May	—
Diageo PLC	560	33	43½	—	15	32½	—
(*570½)	600	8½	23	—	46	62½	—

	Series	Calls Feb	May	Aug	Puts Feb	May	Aug
Diageo PLC	550	35½	54	63	12½	25½	28½
(*570½)	600	11½	30½	39	40½	52	56
Hanson	260	25½	35½	37½	3½	10½	12½
(*279)	280	14	24½	29½	11	19½	22½
Imp Tob	390	24½	38½	45½	9½	15½	21½
(*402½)	420	11	25½	31	25	37½	36½
Kingfshr	850	52	77	94½	25	52	65
(*868½)	900	28½	53½	70½	51½	78	93
Lasmo	260	15	28	30	8	15	16
(*265½)	280	6½	17	20½	18½	25½	27
Ladbroke	280	14½	23	31	11	19½	24½
(*281)	300	6½	14½	22½	23½	31	36
LucasVar	200	12½	21½	25½	5	10	14
(*207)	220	4	12½	16½	15½	20½	24½
P&O	700	30	44½	58½	21½	35½	49
(*704½)	750	10½	23	37½	52½	67	78½

	Series	Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
Prudntl	800	44	70½	91	37½	61	72
(*802½)	850	23½	49½	69	66½	89½	101
Rio Tinto	700	59½	74	94	13½	36½	47
(*736)	750	31	49½	68½	35	61½	72
Redland	330	16½	17½	17	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
(*345)	360	½	[illegible]	½	15	15	15
R-Royce	220	20½	29	36	4	10½	14½
(*235½)	240	9	18	26	12½	19	24½
Tesco	500	30	45	56	12	25½	34
(*512)	550	9	23	33½	42	54	61½
Utd Bsc	200	20	24	28	2½	8	10
(*217½)	220	6½	12	17	8½	17	19½

	Series	Calls Mar	Jun	Sep	Puts Mar	Jun	Sep
BG PLC	283	23	31½	—	11	17½	—
(*292)	306	12	20½	—	22	29	—
BSkyB	420	47½	61½	72	15	25	29½
(*449½)	460	25½	41	52	35	44	48½
Br Bio	110	20	29½	36	9	17	18
(*117½)	120	15½	25½	32	14½	22½	22½
Centrica	90	7½	10½	13	5½	8	[illegible]
(*91)	100	3	6½	9	11½	14	14½
Dixons	550	48½	67	78½	20	32	42
(*574)	600	24½	42½	54½	47	56½	67
EMI	452	43	—	—	23	—	—
(*512)	520	29½	—	—	37½	—	—
Granada	950	51	81½	100½	30½	44	54
(*963)	1000	27½	56	74½	54½	69	73½
GUS	750	57½	80	97	29½	40½	49½
(*772)	800	34	54½	71½	59½	66	73½
Lloyds TSB	750	78	93½	117½	32	40	52½
(*795½)	800	50½	72½	93	53½	63½	77
Lonrho	90	7½	11½	15	5	11	11½
(*90)	100	4	8	10½	15	18	18
Norwich	390	33	39½	56	13½	22½	25½
(*405½)	420	18	25	41	25	36	45½
Orange	240	24	33½	39½	7½	14	15
(*251)	260	13	23½	29½	16½	23½	25
Railtrck	900	87½	122½	141	37½	47½	63½
(*945½)	950	61½	98½	116½	53½	68½	82
Scot Pwr	500	47½	68	76½	12½	22	30½
(*531)	550	25	41½	50½	34½	44½	54½
Tarmac	110	9	11½	15	4½	6½	7
(*113)	120	4½	7	10½	10	12½	12½
Tomkins	300	22½	32	37	8	14½	17
(*312½)	330	10½	18	24½	24½	29½	32½
Unilever	500	41½	51	63½	13	23½	30½
(*520½)	525	27	38½	—	24	35½	—

January 7 Total: 29019 Calls: 14419 Puts: 14600

FTSE INDEX (*5221)

Strike	Calls Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jun	Puts Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jun
5050	207	326	352	410½	—	28½	107	155	182½	—
5100	165½	288	330	378½	472	37½	119½	173½	202	258
5150	128½	254	300	347	—	50	138	193½	222	—
5200	95	221½	270½	316	407½	67	157½	214	242½	293
5250	65	190½	246½	285	—	90	179	234½	263	—
5300	43½	160	210½	255	343	122	203	257	285½	330½
5350	25½	137	189	231½	—	161½	232	285½	313	—
5400	14	115	167½	210½	288	209	261½	315	342	384½

January 7 Total: 4066 Calls: 1691 Puts: 2375 *Underlying security price

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Mar 98	123-08	123-14	122-28	123-00	80390
Previous open interest 183633	Jun 98	107-20	107-20	107-05	107-05	971
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Mar 98	105.44	105.61	105.37	105.48	199975
Previous open interest 229707	Jun 98	104.92	104.95	104.90	104.89	101
German Govt Bond (Bobl)	Mar 98	104.46	104.58	104.46	104.49	3385
Previous open interest 32200	Jun 98				104.04	0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Mar 98	116.80	117.03	116.67	116.77	64177
Previous open interest 118564	Jun 98	116.44	116.44	116.23	116.20	4125
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Mar 98	130.49	130.50	130.39	130.48	1187
	Jun 98	129.87	129.87	129.87	129.92	30
Three Mth Sterling	Mar 98	92.48	92.50	92.44	92.45	25757
	Jun 98	92.62	92.66	92.58	92.59	34045
Previous open interest 716160	Sep 98	92.82	92.88	92.78	92.79	36232
Three Mth Euromark	Mar 98	96.24	96.26	96.23	96.25	28496
Previous open interest 1763968	Jun 98	96.10	96.13	96.09	96.10	52329
Three Mth Eurolira	Mar 98	94.63	94.65	94.60	94.61	20292
Previous open interest 572270	Jun 98	95.36	95.36	95.31	95.32	11278
Three Mth Euroswiss	Mar 98	98.37	98.42	98.35	98.36	16435
Previous open interest 131143	Jun 98	98.21	98.26	98.19	98.20	6010
Three Mth ECU	Mar 98	95.60	95.60	95.58	95.58	680
Previous open interest 33654	Jun 98	95.60	95.60	95.59	95.99	337
FTSE 100	Mar 98	5270.0	5312.0	5252.0	5261.0	12268
Previous open interest 25	Jun 98				5321.0	0

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7¼ Finance Hse 8
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 8 Low 7¼ Week fixed: 7¼
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 7; 3 mth 7. Sell: 2 mth 6¾; 3 mth: 6¾.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open 7¼, close 7¼.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps	7¼	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs	5.53	n/a	5.60	5.62	5.60
Building Society CDs	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4-3
French Franc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

Bullion: Open $282.00-282.40 Close: $282.30-282.80 High: $282.00-282.50 Low: $280.75-281.25 AM: $282.10 PM: $281.60

Krugerrand: $286.00-288.00 (£177.00-179.00)

Platinum: $358.00 (£220.35) Silver: $6.06 (£3.735) Palladium: $203.25 (£125.10)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mid Rates for January 7	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.3361-3.3437	3.3419-3.3437	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brussels	61.040-61.240	61.140-61.240	23-18pr	62-55pr
Copenhagen	11.269-11.299	11.292-11.299	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dublin	1.1832-1.1935	1.1871-1.1892	13-6pr	48-40pr
Frankfurt	2.9606-2.9671	2.9650-2.9671	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lisbon	302.73-303.31	302.99-303.25	[illegible]	[illegible]
Madrid	250.81-251.35	251.19-251.35	61-50pr	188-169pr
Milan	2908.3-2914.3	2911.4-2913.6	39-24pr	123-100pr
Montreal	2.3244-2.3291	2.3276-2.3291	0.60-0.55pr	1.09-1.01pr
New York	1.6214-1.6249	1.6244-1.6249	0.25-0.237pr	0.74-0.718pr
Oslo	12.159-12.213	12.193-12.205	[illegible]	[illegible]
Paris	9.9050-9.9320	9.9220-9.9306	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	13.055-13.100	13.077-13.092	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	214.48-215.77	214.48-214.64	[illegible]	[illegible]
Vienna	20.825-20.895	20.859-20.895	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	2.3944-2.4024	2.4001-2.4024	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel. Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

Australia	1.5642-1.5654
Austria	12.80-12.81
Belgium (Com)	37.66-37.70
Canada	1.4325-1.4330
Denmark	6.9542-6.9562
France	6.1142-6.1152
Germany	1.8263-1.8268
Hong Kong	7.7365-7.7375
Ireland	1.3643-1.3663
Italy	1794.00-1794.50
Japan	132.02-132.12
Malaysia	4.3505-4.3600
Netherlands	2.0570-2.0575
Norway	7.5115-7.5165
Portugal	186.69-186.79
Singapore	1.7400-1.7430
Spain	154.65-154.70
Sweden	8.0520-8.0570
Switzerland	1.4768-1.4773

Argentina peso*	1.6251-1.6278
Australia dollar	2.5414-2.5449
Bahrain dinar	0.6045-0.6185
Brazil real*	1.8113-1.8141
China yuan	13.288-13.588
Cyprus pound	0.8595-0.8785
Finland markka	8.9125-9.0535
Greece drachma	463.75-474.25
Hong Kong dollar	12.5656-12.5750
India rupee	63.40-64.76
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4915-0.5025
Malaysia ringgit	7.3909-7.4109
New Zealand dollar	2.8435-2.8487
Pakistan rupee	69.85 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8373-5.9725
Singapore dollar	2.8261-2.8327
S Africa rand (com)	7.9430-8.1120
U A E dirham	5.8900-6.0260

Barclays Treasury Lloyds Bank*

3i	527	Lloyds TSB	15,300
ASDA Gp	6,500	LucasVarity	5,700
Abbey Ntl	2,400	Marks Spr	3,800
Allnce & Leic	1,300	NatWst Bk	3,300
Allied Dom	2,300	Nat Grid	8,100
AB Foods	2,500	Nat Power	1,700
BAA	2,100	Next	5,400
BAT Inds	6,800	Norwich Un	6,500
BG	4,200	Nycmd Amer	247
BOC	1,100	Orange	1,400
BP	24,900	P & O	775
BSkyB	2,200	Pearson	1,100
BTR	13,300	PowerGen	1,700
BT	16,300	Prudential	4,100
Bk of Scot	1,000	RMC	462
Barclays	4,300	Railtrack	1,000
Bass	2,200	Rank Group	2,000
Billiton	3,000	Reckitt Col	565
Blue Circle	2,200	Reed Intl	4,300
Boots	1,900	Rentokil	3,100
BAe	1,300	Reuters	3,600
BA	15,800	Rio Tinto	3,100
British Land	1,800	Rolls Royce	5,900
Brit Steel	6,200	Royal & Sun	5,000
Cable Wire	17,900	Royal Bk Sct	2,700
Cadbury	3,000	Safeway	9,400
Carlton Cms	4,100	Sainsbury	4,100
Centrica	16,100	Schroders	134
Cm Union	1,200	Scot & New	2,600
Diageo	29,300	Scot Power	2,300
Dixons	4,900	Svrn Trent	1,300
EMI	1,700	Shell Trans	16,200
Energy Gp	1,100	Siebe	1,200
Enterpr Oil	3,200	SmKl Bch	12,800
GKN	611	Smiths Inds	239
GRE	5,700	Std Chartd	5,200
GUS	752	Sun Life & P	992
Gen Acc	1,200	TI Gp	961
Gen Elec	13,400	Tesco	5,200
Glaxo Well	10,100	Thames W	2,000
Granada	5,500	Tomkins	3,000
HSBC	5,000	Unilever	8,700
Halifax	6,800	Utd Utilities	591
Hays	987	Utd News	810
ICI	3,100	Vodafone	20,600
Kingfisher	1,100	Whitbread	896
LASMO	4,300	Williams	1,500
Ladbroke	5,100	Wolseley	2,000
Land Secs	1,100	Woolwich	6,800
Legal & Gn	9,500	Zeneca	2,100

	Jan 7 midday	Jan 6 close
AMP Inc	41	42
AMR Corp	132	129
AT & T	59	60
Abbott Labs	66	66
Advanced Micro	19	19
Aetna Life	71	72
Ahmanson (HF)	58	61
Air Prod & Chem	81	81
AirTouch Comm	41	41
Albertson's	45	45
Alcan Aluminum	27	28
Allied Signal	38	39
Alum Co of Am	70	70
Amerada Hess	52	51
AEP	50	50
Amer Express	86	87
Amer Genl Corp	53	53
Amer Home Pr	76	77
Amer Intl	108	109
Amer Stores	20	20
Amer Standard	39	38
Ameritech	81	81
Amgen	53	53
Amoco	87	81
Andrew Corp	22	23
Anheuser-Busch	43	43
Apple Computer	17	18
Archer Daniels	21	21
Armco	4	4
Armstrong Wrld	74	73
Asarco	22	22
Atl Richfield	74	74
Avnet Corp	16	79
Auto Data Pro	60	60
Avery Dennison	43	44
Avon Products	60	62
Baker Hughes	38	39
Baltim Gas & El	32	32
Banc One	52	54
BankAmerica	66	69
Bank of NY	56	57
Bankers Tr NY	108	111
Barnett Banks	72	72
Bausch & Lomb	39	39
Baxter Intl	50	50
Becton Dickinsn	49	50
Bell Atlantic	89	90
BellSouth	54	54
Best Foods	102	103
Black & Decker	38	38
Block (H&R)	42	41
Boeing	47	47
Boise Cascade	29	29
Boston Scien	45	46
Bristol Myrs Sq	96	96
Browning Ferris	36	36
Brunswick	29	30
Burlington Nthn	93	93
CMS Energy Corp	44	44
CSX	54	54
CBS Corp	28	29
Campbell Soup	55	56
Carolina Pwr	41	41
Case Corp	60	61
Caterpillar	48	49
Central & SW	26	27
Champion Intl	45	45
Chase Manhat	105	107
Chevron Corp	74	73
Chrysler	34	34
Chubb Corp	76	77
Cigna Corp	171	172
Citicorp	120	123
Clorox	76	78
Coastal Corp	57	58
Coca Cola	65	66
Coca Cola Ent	38	38
Colgate-Palm	70	71
Columbia Gas	71	74
ColumbiaHCA	29	29
Compaq Comp	59	60
Comp Ass Intl	52	54
ConAgra	30	31
Cons Edison	39	40
Cons Nat Gas	56	57
Cooper Inds	50	50
Corestates	79	80
Corning Inc	38	39
Cwide Credit	42	43
Crestar Finl	55	57
Crown Cork	48	49
Dana Corp	50	51
Dayton Hudson	69	69
Deere	56	56
Delta Air Lines	119	117
Deluxe Corp	33	34
Digital Equip	38	39
Dillard Dept St	35	35
Disney (Walt)	97	98
Dominion Res	41	41
Donnelley (RR)	37	37
Dover Corp	35	36
Dow Chemical	94	97
Dow Jones	52	52
Dresser	38	39
Duke Power	54	54
Dun & Bradstreet	31	31
Du Pont	57	58
Eastman Chem	59	60
Eastman Kodak	63	64
Eaton Corp	90	90
Edison Int	26	26
Elect Data Sys	43	43
Emerson Elec	56	56
Engelhard Corp	17	17
Enron Corp	38	38
Entergy	28	28
Ethyl Corp	7	7
Exxon	59	59
FMC Corp	66	67
FPL Group	56	57
Federal Express	64	63
Fifth Third Banc	80	82
Fleet Finl Grp	72	74
Fluor Corp	38	38
Ford Motor	47	47
Fort James	36	37
Fortune Brands	36	36
Franklin Res	89	90
GTE Corp	50	51
Gannett	60	60
Gap Inc Del	34	35
Gateway 2000	33	34
Gen Dynamics	89	86
Gen Electric	73	74
Gen Mills	70	72
Gen Motors	58	59
Gen Reinsurance	215	215
Gen Signal	41	41
Genuine Parts	33	33
Georgia Pac	58	60
Gillette	98	100
Glaxo Wellc ADR	49	49
Goodrich (BF)	41	42
Goodyear Tire	62	62
Great Lakes	44	44
Halliburton	44	45
Harcourt General	52	54
Heinz (HJ)	52	52
Hercules	49	49
Hershey Foods	61	61
Hewlett Packard	63	64
Hilton Hotels	29	29
Home Depot	58	57
Homestake Mng	8	8
Honeywell	67	68
Household Intl	124	125
Houston Inds	25	25
Humana	20	20
ITT Corp	81	82
Ikon Office	27	28
Illinois Tool	57	58
Illinova	27	26
INCO	16	17
Ingersoll Rand	40	40
Inland Steel	18	18
Intel Corp	72	73
IBM	103	105
Intl Flav & Fr	48	47
Intl Paper	44	46
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	64	64
Kellogg	48	49
Kerr-McGee	59	59
Kimberly-Clark	48	48
Kmart	11	11
Knight-Ridder	53	53
Lilly (Eli)	69	70
Limited Inc	25	25
Lincoln Nat	76	78
Litton	55	56
Liz Claiborne	41	41
Lockheed Martin	100	99
Louisiana Pac	18	19
MCI Comm	43	43
Manpower Inc	34	34
Marriott Int	67	67
Marsh & McLen	74	74
Masco Corp	50	50
May Dept St	51	52
Maytag Corp	37	37
McDonalds	47	47
McGraw Hill	73	74
Mead Corp	28	29
Medtrust Corp	34	33
Medtronic	49	50
Mellon Bk	58	61
Merck Inc	104	105
Mercury Fin	0	0
Merrill Lynch	69	70
Microsoft	128	131
Minnesota Mng	84	83
Mirage Resorts	21	21
Mobil Corp	68	69
Monsanto	40	41
Morgan (JP)	110	110
Motorola Inc	57	58
Mylan Labs	19	19
Natl Semi	23	24
Natl Service Ind	49	49
Navistar Int	26	25
NY Times A	65	64
Newmont Mng	27	28
Nike B	40	42
NL Industries	15	15
Nordstrom	59	59
Norfolk Sthrn	31	31
Nthn States Pwr	56	56
Norwest Corp	36	37
Occidental Pet	27	27
Office Depot	24	25
Oracle	21	22
Oryx Energy Co	23	23
Owens Corning	34	34
PPG Industries	57	57
PMI Group	69	70
PNC Bank	53	55
PPal Res	27	27
Paccar Inc	51	53
Pacificorp	25	26
Pac Enterprises	36	36
PaineWebber	33	33
Pall Corp	20	21
Parker Hannifin	45	45
Peco Energy	22	24
Penney (JC)	59	59
Pennzoil	65	66
Pepsico	36	35
Pfizer	76	77
Pharm & Upjhn	36	37
Phelps Dodge	63	63
Philip Morris	45	45
Phillips Pet	48	49
Pitney Bowes	89	90
Polaroid	48	48
Procter & Gmbl	80	82
Providian	45	46
Pub Serv E & G	30	30
Quaker Oats	51	51
Ralston Purina	90	91
Raytheon Corp	40	41
Reebok Intl	28	28
Reliastar Fin	41	41
Reynolds Metals	59	59
Rockwell Intl	52	53
Rohm & Haas	91	93
Royal Dutch	52	52
Rubbermaid	24	24
SBC Comms	72	72
Safeco Corp	47	47
St Paul's Cos	81	81
Sara Lee Corp	55	56
Schering Plough	64	64
Schlumberger	73	74
Seagram	32	33
Sears Roebuck	45	45
Shell Trans	41	41
Sherwin Wllms	27	28
Silicon Graphics	11	12
Snap-On Tools	42	42
Southern Co	24	25
Southtrust	59	61
Sprint Corp	58	59
Stanley Works	44	46
Sun Company	40	41
Sun Microsys	41	42
Suntrust	69	70
Supervalu	41	41
Synovus Fin	31	31
Sysco Corp	45	45
TRW Inc	52	53
TJX Hldgs	33	33
Tandy Corp	37	37
Temple Inland	56	54
Tenet Healthcare	33	32
Tenneco	39	40
Texaco	53	51
Texas Inst	46	47
Texas Utilities	40	40
Textron	59	60
Thermo Elect	41	42
Time Warner	60	60
Times-Mirror A	60	60
Timken	34	34
Torchmark	41	42
Toys R Us	29	30
Transamerica	108	107
Travelers	52	53
Tribune	60	60
UST Inc	35	36
US Bancorp	109	110
UAL	95	91
Unitrin	61	62
US Inds	28	29
US West Comm	46	45
US West Media	29	28
USAirways Group	61	60
USX Marathon	32	32
Unicom	30	30
Unilever NY	62	62
Union Camp	54	54
Union Carbide	43	43
Union Pacific	60	61
Unisys Corp	14	14
USF&G Corp	22	22
United Tech	72	72
Unocal Corp	38	38
VF Corp	45	45
Wal-Mart Stores	39	39
Warner-Lambert	128	129
Waste Mngmt	25	26
Wells Fargo	328	336
Weyerhaeuser	47	48
Whirlpool	53	55
Whitman	26	26
Winn Dixie	42	43
Witco Corp	40	41
Woolworth	20	20
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	76	78
Xerox	73	74
Xilinx Inc	35	36

مكذا من الإصل

Spectre of a means test millennium

Until 20 years ago, no phrase carried a greater political charge than the means test. To those of us whose fathers or grandfathers had regular work in the decades before 1939, the spectre did not convey much dread. In much of the North, the Midlands and London's East End, it conjured up the misery of being separated from destitution only by the discretion of petty bureaucrats who were enjoined to dole out as little as the rules obliged and licensed to pry into every corner of family life.

In 1945, families scarred by that experience ensured a landslide victory for a Labour government committed to something more dignified than poverty relief. They brought in a state social security system under which benefits were earned as of right.

Two generations later, their grandchildren gave an even bigger mandate to a new Labour government commited to reversing that process. No one campaigns on the slogan: bring back the means test. Euphemisms have been developed. Every time ministers talk of "giving more help to those who really need it" or "focusing resources where they will do most good", they mean to switch social security to mean-tested relief.

Reform is needed because the welfare state has been so ruthlessly exploited. Many employers have used it to absolve them of responsibility for employees, to subsidise low wages, convert full-time jobs to part-time and expand casual work. The frequent job-changing implied by flexibility probably puts an extra half a million of transients on welfare at any time.

People on middle or lower incomes have exploited state welfare to adopt the appalling family habits long practised by the monied upper classes. At the fringe, the streetwise and some undeserving foreigners manage the system to their own advantage or defraud it.

Government has exploited the welfare state far worse than either. In the Tory years, it was used as a dustbin to dispose of the nasty side-effects of other policies: free housing and labour markets, utility competition, domestic energy taxation. Burgeoning welfare was the "price well worth paying" for inflation-beating unemployment. The postwar welfare state was incompatible with a liberal society and a US free-market economy.

Labour was seduced into loving the European Union by the lure of a continental semi-protected economy, which might be compatible with social security. In power, new Labour has adopted the enlightened version of the American model. Tories cut welfare with guilt. Labour will reform with zeal.

The most appealing euphemism in this campaign is "helping people to escape welfare dependency". We all want that. We need it too, to restore fiscal health instead



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

of starving other spending or swelling taxes to fit in the ever-growing welfare bill.

Efforts to get unemployed people into work can help, even if the cost per job proves high. Accelerating the Tory drive to run down social security benefits such as pensions in favour of focusing, could make things worse.

Past generations rebelled against means tests because they took away people's dignity. Today, economic arguments are as vital. It is not the welfare state *per se* that breeds dependency, stifles incentives or encourages cheating. It is means-tested benefits such as income support, which was meant to be the last resort but now plays a much bigger role. Benefits as of right to those who qualify, such as disability living allowance or child benefit, help people without damaging their incentive to earn. They can actually help people earn.

Means-tested benefits discourage people from bettering themselves by anything short of a full-time well-paid job. The faster the weight of benefits shifts to means-testing, the more recipients will be bullied to overcome an ever-stronger induced financial addiction to welfare.

One form of means-testing is perfectly acceptable in principle. Indeed, it is the fair counterpart of universal transfers. They should be included in taxable income. So what is the fuss? At this stage, much of the controversial reform signalled by Whitehall leaks appears to consist of taxing benefits that are at present neither taxable nor otherwise means-tested. These include child benefit, disability living allowance and attendance allowance, which together cost nearly £15 billion a year.

In practice, the threshold for paying income tax is far too low: about £80 a week for individuals with limited relief of a further £34 a week for married couples. At such levels of income, many families are eligible for means-tested benefits. Child benefit and disability living allowance both aim to compensate for higher than average living costs so it would be ludicrous to tax them in the hands of families that are on the poverty line. Any constructive reform must embrace tax allowances. A mechanism for making them more realistic is about to be created. The national minimum wage might wean more people off benefit dependency and make bigger cuts in the social security bill than any welfare reforms yet proposed. It can also be a catalyst to make tax and welfare work together.

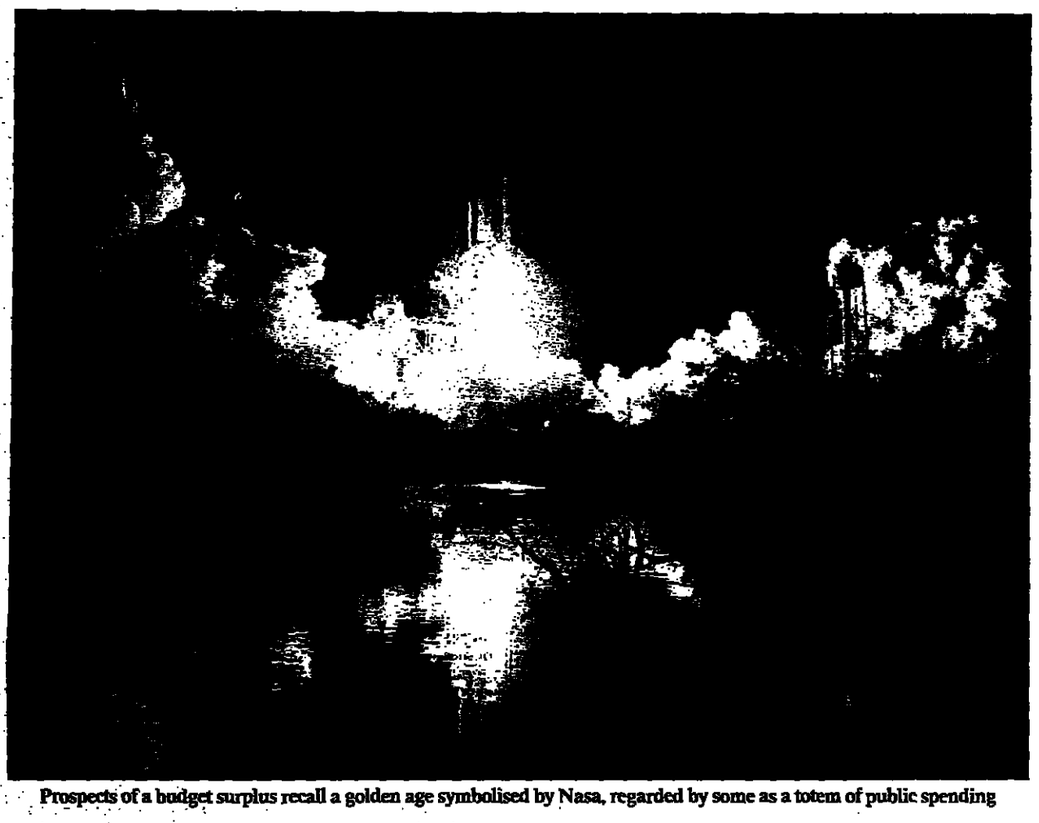
No one should be taxed on income while eligible for means-tested benefits. Since the money comes from the taxing authority, however, it gets away with this absurdity. The minimum wage must be paid by private employers and will principally affect those who think they cannot afford to pay it. The Government cannot logically claim it is immoral to pay people less than, say, £120 a week yet tax away part of the earnings of someone on the minimum wage. Nor is taxing the minimum wage politically sustainable.

The minimum wage must become the minimum tax threshold. Only then can we start a welfare reform that works.

Budget surplus may not mean the good times are back again



AMERICAN AGENDA
BRONWEN MADDOX



Prospects of a budget surplus recall a golden age symbolised by Nasa, regarded by some as a totem of public spending

"The Sixties are back," is the way leading Democrats on Capitol Hill describe the sudden mood of optimism. The economy is booming, there are missions to the moon, even if Sonny Bono sadly is gone. Conservatives unwilling to praise the social liberalism of that decade, or the National Aeronautics & Space Administration (Nasa), that totem of government spending, refer more coyly to the return of the postwar golden age.

President Clinton's announcement this week that the government budget will return to surplus in 1999 for the first time since 1969 has made it politically acceptable to acknowledge what share prices and bond markets have long known: the US economy is in good shape. The federal deficit, the millstone around government's neck, has suddenly fallen away.

The actual impact of the projected surpluses of government revenue over spending on the average American will be unnoticeably small. The bounty is not enough to pay for the handfuls of small treats that politicians are now delightedly suggesting, let alone to fix the looming fiscal problems of the next century. But the political effect of the minus sign changing to a plus is huge. The real question, as politicians gear up for November's congressional elections, and for the 2000 race for the presidency, is whether the surplus will prompt a return to the "Reaganomic" tax-cutting rhetoric of the 1980s.

For a new year message, the President could hardly have hit on a more politically powerful statement: that next month he will propose a balanced budget for fiscal year 1999, three years earlier than forecast in last summer's tortuous deal with the Republican-controlled Congress. The Administration has not put a number to the projected 1999 surplus, but Franklin Raines, the budget director, says it will be "slight".

The projection is hardly a complete surprise. Economic growth and tax revenues have repeatedly outstripped forecasts for the past two years. Recent Treasury figures show that in the past 12 months the federal government took $2.4 billion (£1.4 billion) more in revenues than it spent. The Administration's projections for the deficit for the current 1998 fiscal year, which ends on September 30, have shrunk to $22 billion from the previous $58 billion. They emphatically give the lie to the claim by Bob Dole, the Republican presidential candidate, that the economy was "barely afloat".

But the reality of the deficit's disappearance has still come as something of a new year shock to Washington. The last two consecutive surpluses were in 1956 and 1957. The deficit then chugged along at less than $100 billion, despite the Vietnam war. It was the 1981 tax cuts drawn up by Ronald Reagan that did the damage; in 1993 and 1994, the deficit ballooned to more than $200 billion, peaking in 1992 at $290 billion.

The immediate effect of the imminent disappearance of the deficit on ordinary Americans is negligible, if only because they are already getting the benefits. Interest rates and mortgage costs are already falling on the assumption that the $5.5 trillion national debt, the legacy of the years of deficit, will not rise further in the near future.

Nor, as Mr Clinton rushed to point out, does the emergence of a small surplus do much to release the Administration or Congress from the fiscal straitjacket of the past two decades. Small surpluses running at a few tens of billion dollars a year would hardly make great inroads on the national debt, even if devoted entirely to paying it down.

Nor would they fix the social security system, currently on course to go bankrupt in the second decade of the next century as baby boomers retire, stop paying income taxes and start drawing pensions. Politicians such as Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, who proposed this week that the surplus be used for this end, rightly deserved *The Washington Post*'s jibe that they were practising the politics of "rubber dollars".

Some of the fall in federal spending also involves political sleight of hand; swaths of spending on welfare, drug control and illegal immigration have been transfered from Washington to state level, taking advantage of the budget surpluses that state governments have been running. When state surpluses dwindle, as they are set to do, there may well be a state-level call for Washington to reassume the burden.

But in political terms, the predicted arrival of the surplus has changed the Washington debate overnight. It has freed the extremes of both parties from the need to toe the line of fiscal moderation, which has made both parties seem so similar throughout the Clinton Administration. The breadth of the ideological span within each party is now visible again, as is the risk of deep division.

On the Democratic side, politicians are split between those who favour a balanced budget, and those who want to use the surplus to repair some of the social programmes squeezed since the 1970s. Although a few congressional Republicans favour more spending on defence or highways, most are advocates either of a balanced budget or of tax cuts. The tax-cutting brigade itself is divided between those favouring cuts for businesses and those favouring families.

The President, leery of a feeding frenzy, has made clear that he will fight anything that threatens a balanced budget, from either party. "I will do everything that I can to prevent anyone from using a projected future surplus as a pretext for returning to the failed policies of the past".

Of the rival philosophies, it is probably the tax-cutters who present him with the greater threat. In the November elections, when the Democrats have a slim but real chance of regaining the House, one of the unresolved questions is whether the radical supply-side policies of the 1980s have political life in them. The era of the surplus has increased the chance that key Republicans think they do.

The intellectual base of Reaganomics was the theory that tax cuts partly pay for themselves by boosting economic growth: they encourage higher savings and investment, and boost labour supply and productivity. The philosophy can be credited with making high marginal tax rates — which reached 70 per cent in the US in the 1970s — decisively unacceptable. But evidence from the Reagan years on exactly how much the tax cuts paid for themselves is mixed, and the conclusions hotly disputed.

Mr Reagan's image in the public mind has somehow escaped association with the deficit, the clearest legacy of his economic policies, much as John F. Kennedy's reputation miraculously resists tarnishing by investigations into the dark side of his presidency. But it seems unlikely that the 1990s fans of tax cuts will risk the charge that they are opening the door again to the deficit. Those now assembling to campaign under a tax-cutting banner as November approaches will feel under pressure to suggest corresponding spending cuts.

While politicians of all hues responded to Mr Clinton's announcement this week as if just let off the leash, they are likely to find that the image of the balanced budget is too potent to jeopardise. The Sixties are not back, at all, nor the Eighties; no one wants to be known as the one who squandered the country's first federal surplus for 30 years.

Pricing holds the key to future for versatile fibre

Paul Durman feels the fabric of Courtaulds attempts to thrive

Tencel is routinely and lazily described as a wonder fibre. Cynics could be forgiven for suggesting that this is because investors spend all their time wondering whether its manufacturer, Courtaulds, will ever make any money out of it.

The British chemicals company has been promising a bright future for Tencel for years. The first new man-made fibre for 30 years is acclaimed for its versatility. It can be used to create fabrics that feel like silk, handle like cotton, hang like wool and yet tough enough to be machine washable.

It has been said Tencel is to Courtaulds what Lycra was to DuPont in the Sixties. Sipko Huismans, Courtaulds former chief executive, said Tencel was "the single biggest thing we will be judged on in the next century".

Marks & Spencer's sales of garments using Tencel have reached £75 million a year. With its luxurious feel and its ability to absorb rich colours, it has been taken up by many leading fashion designers, including Calvin Klein, Donna Karan, Jean Paul Gaultier, and Christian Lacroix. But all this enthusiasm has failed to perform any wonders for the Courtaulds share price, which has underperformed the wider stock market by 75 per cent over the past five years. This has little to do with Tencel, which still accounts for only about £100 million of Courtaulds's £2.1 billion of annual sales. Gordon Campbell, who succeeded Mr Huismans as chief executive, blames the company's problems almost entirely on its viscose rayon business, which has suffered a sharp fall in profits because of low prices brought about by weak demand and overcapacity.

> Many leading designers, including Calvin Klein, are big fans of the fibre

Late last year, Tencel started adding to the disappointments. It was alarming to learn that orders had fallen at the group's US plant in Alabama. The shortfall was only modest, but then Tencel is supposed to be a great growth business for the twenty first century. Courtaulds blamed the weakening in demand on previous over-ordering and a turn away from denim, currently the single biggest use for the fibre, particularly in America.

Tencel had only just started making a serious profit. Now Peter Edwards, an analyst at ABN Amro Hoare Govett, believes this year's contribution will fall from £11 million to £5 million. Not much of a return on a £300 million investment.

Labour disputes and other construction problems have also delayed completion of a plant in Grimsby that will be capable of producing 40,000 tonnes of Tencel a year. And the troubles in the Asian economies have prompted Courtaulds to postpone a decision on the facility it plans for the Pacific region.

With much bigger worries to contend with, the company's settlement yesterday of the long-running patent dispute over Tencel looks sensible. Courtaulds and Lenzing, its great Austrian rival, have agreed to cross-license their patents to one another without requiring royalty payments — essentially pooling the ownership of the 130 patents involved in the production of lyocell, the generic name that Lenzing uses for its product. It is a remarkably simple solution to a dispute that has been with the lawyers for five years.

Courtaulds and Lenzing developed lyocell/Tencel after licensing from Akzo Nobel, the Dutch chemicals group, the technology to extract cellulose from wood pulp. The battle that has been fought in the US courts and the European Patent Office has concerned the use of a standard piece of equipment called a filmtruder. Courtaulds contended that using a filmtruder to process lyocell was so obvious it did not think to patent it. Lenzing disagreed — and it had the patent.

Courtaulds won its case with the European Patent Office although it lost the last round in the US. But ultimately this was irrelevant. Although Courtaulds was faster both companies developed lyocell separately but essentially along the same lines. Mr Campbell says there may be numerous instances where they had inadvertently infringed one another's patents. Resolving the filmtruder issue would still have allowed both companies to carry on making further patent challenges.

The hopes now is that Courtaulds and Lenzing will both benefit from concentrating their efforts on developing the market for Tencel/lyocell. Mr Campbell said: "They had reached a conclusion that we had reached years ago: that we would be far better off competing in the market place and developing the market."

In spite of the recent hiccup, Mr Campbell remains confident. "Sales of Tencel are still very strong," he said.

Marks & Spencer remains enthusiastic, and has extended its use of Tencel blends from jeans and other casualwear to a much wider ranger of clothing.

One reason for the City's faith in Tencel is that it currently has a tiny share of the world's fibres market — 70,000 tonnes in an industry producing 20 million tonnes of cotton and 18 million tonnes of polyester, out of a total of 55 million.

Mr Campbell still hopes profits from Tencel will rise to about £60 million a year by the year to March 2001 although this is dependent on Courtaulds pushing ahead with its Asian production facility. And Mr Campbell wants to see some calm return to the region before he feels brave enough to push ahead with further investment.

Longer term, the key issue is pricing. Mr Edwards said Tencel currently sells for $1.66 a pound or roughly twice the cost of cotton. That may offer good margins, but it may also restrict the eventual growth in overall sales. A rise in the price of cotton, which Mr Campbell believes likely, would help to support the growth in sales.

Split roles

I BOW to no one in my admiration for Richard Branson. But I fear he may be heading for a hyperactive week or two even by his standards, because he cannot be in two places at once. Branson said, after the failure of the around-the-world balloon attempt by Steve Fossett earlier this week, that he himself would have another crack at it shortly, after his last bid came so cruelly to grief in Morocco. Branson must be aware that some day someone is going to clinch the record, and he had better get a move on if it is going to be him..

The trouble is that the Bearded Wonder has a rather more down-to-earth appointment before then, at London's High Court, when he will be both plaintiff and defendant in the libel cases involving him and G-Tech, the National Lottery operator. (He is suing G-Tech, and it is countersuing). The case opens on Monday and is due to last three to four weeks. The hope is that Branson will spend next week in court, then be free to rush off to Marrakesh by the week after, by when the balloon will be ready, to await suitable weather.

"You can't plan when balloons are ready to take off, and you can't plan on how long libel cases are going to last," admits Will Whitehorn at Virgin. But what if he is still in court, the balloon is ready and the winds are favourable? Libel cases always, but always, overrun. "He will be in court," says Whitehorn. "But it would be a pity."



Will Branson be there when the balloon goes up?

☐ *SECURE TRUST, which provides "household financial management services" — savings schemes, to you and me — has found an unusual new barometer of the nation's economic health. Forget house moves or holiday bookings; just look at how often its collecting agents are robbed. Stephen Lockley, finance director, says that the company recorded two or three robberies a month in 1994. That number had fallen to just two or three in all of the past year. Has anyone told the Treasury, though?*

Flight delay

THE latest edition of *BA News*, the internal British Airways newsletter, carries an obviously staged photograph of Bob Ayling, the BA chief executive, unpacking personal documents at his new office at Heathrow. Yes honestly, even the great man stoops to such menial chores. Ayling is holding a document entitled "Putting People First". But my sharp-eyed informant points out that the logo on the document is not the new BA livery, nor yet even the one it is replacing. It is the one they were using back in the 1980s, when BA had rather more people in its employ to put first.

While we are on the subject, I am invited to see the world's first complimentary office, for use by executive travellers, at Heathrow, Terminal 1. In the company of "Sir Robert Ayling", it says here. Not yet, Bob, not yet. But surely your day will come.

Catch-all

IT SEEMS an extraordinary thing to worry about. But Julia Drown, Labour MP for South Swindon and one of last year's new intake, is conducting a survey of insurance companies, banks and building societies to ensure that they do not discriminate against transsexuals. This was triggered by a couple of worried letters the MP received, she tells me. "Some people could have an insurance policy, and because of some fine print in it, because they are a transsexual and they didn't disclose it, the whole thing could be invalid." Thinking about it, I suppose it could. Policies tend to have some catch-all provision about full disclosure of any material changes, and some changes are pretty material, after all. So far the only insurer to have responded to the MP's inquiries has been quite reassuring. But I will let you know if any prove to be less helpful.

☐ *"300 CRYPTOBIOTIC species can't be wrong" is the eye-catching headline on a piece of research from Nomura on Quadrant, one of those terrifying biotech outfits that might be worth zillions. Or possibly nothing. I didn't know what it meant either, so I looked it up. It is the process whereby organisms in periods of water shortage dry up and appear dead but rehydrate and come back to life when conditions improve. Quadrant, which finds applications for the preservative agent such organisms use for the trick, is coming to the stock market shortly. And now you know.*



"... and remember it's my birthday on February 1"

Bar bill

I REALISE insurers are keen to target specialist niche markets for their policies, but I have never come across one quite this specialist before. Independent Insurance is selling a package, aimed at the very rich or the very silly, I must assume, that provides for all sorts of likely and unlikely eventualities. Including scoring a hole in one on the golf course. "This can result in you (sic) buying a very costly round of drinks. Therefore, we will pay you up to £250 towards your bar bill." Honestly, the things some people find to worry about.

MARTIN WALLER

Financial services 'could face £1bn costs over Isa'

By Richard Miles

THE Individual Savings Account (Isa) could prove more expensive than its forerunners, Peps and Tessas, because of the huge cost of implementation, a management consultancy has claimed.

OSI, a management support company, estimates that the financial services industry will have to spend at least £1 billion on systems to support the Isa to meet the specifications proposed by the Government last year.

This cost, it claims, will be passed on ultimately to consumers through charges. On the assumption of six million investors, the company believes Isas will carry annual administrative charges of £20 to £30, making them equally as expensive as Peps if not more so.

Such high charges are likely to act as a deterrent to low-paid savers, the very people the Government wants to encourage to take out Isas, and to lend weight to allegations by political opponents that the Treasury is simply intent on reducing the amount of tax relief paid to investors.

Peter Elliott, principal of OSI, also voices doubts about whether the new Isas will be launched on time — the Government has proposed April 1 next year — because the product's complexity will require many hours of programming time.

He added: "Our clients are already up to their neck in year 2000 and monetary union systems work. The management stretch and resourcing issues could cause major problems for the industry as a whole and could lead to some companies entering the market late."

Fund managers such as Perpetual and Fidelity will bear the biggest share of the costs at £300 million, according to OSI's calculations. They are followed by life insurers at £240 million and banks and building societies at £130 million. Even new entrants such as Sainsbury and Tesco might have to spend as much as £45 million on new Isa systems.



Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, wants to encourage low-paid savers to take out Isas, but high charges could prove a big deterrent

Lloyd's investigates allegations relating to Merrett syndicate

By Jon Ashworth

LLOYD'S of London is to look into allegations of misconduct surrounding Merrett Syndicate 418, the syndicate once linked to Stephen Merrett, the controversial former deputy chairman of Lloyd's.

Names in the syndicate are angered at the circumstances surrounding the reinsurance to close (RITC) of the 1993 year of account. Murray Lawrence Corporate (MLC, formerly Whittington Syndicate Management), the managing agent for the syndicate, favours reinsuring the account with Liberty Syndicate Management, which it says provided the most competitive quote.

Representations have been made to John Young, chairman of the Lloyd's Regulatory Board, asking him to examine aspects of the proposed transaction, in particular, why £33 million in provisions for "incurred but not reported" (IBNR) claims — a figure thought to be excessive — is not being repaid to names. Lloyd's said: "We are looking into the allegations that have been made."

At least 130 names have written to MLC questioning the circumstances surrounding the RITC. Richard Whatton, managing director of MLC, has written back, saying MLC is acting in the best interests of names.

Mr Whatton writes: "As run-off managers of the syndicate, we have no other agenda other than to manage its affairs in the best interests of the capital providers. We gain nothing by closing the syndicate, indeed it could be argued that it is in our interests to keep it open, thus potentially prolonging our run-off fees."

MLC says it spent 12 months trying to get syndicates to quote for the RITC. It is seeking to backdate the closure of the account to December 31, saying a failure to do so could mean losses incurred on previous years of account may not be eligible for carry forward when calculating profit commission. This potentially gives rise to an additional profit commission of £4 million, which would be payable to the former agents, Merrett.

The RITC releases a total profit for the syndicate of some £28 million, giving names on the 1993 year a cumulative profit of 18.8 per cent. This would have put the syndicate in the top quartile of marine syndicates for that year. MLC says it has to leave some profit in it for the reinsurer.

Names in Merrett Syndicate 418 won a key High Court case in 1995, which saw heavy criticism of Stephen Merrett. The judge said he had "serious reservations" about Mr Merrett's approach to underwriting, which involved mopping up open-ended US pollution and asbestosis risks from other Lloyd's syndicates.

Mr Merrett resigned as deputy chairman of Lloyd's in 1993. A year ago he agreed to pay £1 million in damages to Merrett names and undertook never to work at Lloyd's again; in return a disciplinary inquiry was dropped.

Arriva takes 75% stake in Vancom

By Chris Ayres

ARRIVA, the transport group that changed its name from Cowie to attract women and foreigners, has bought a controlling stake in the largest privately owned public transport company in The Netherlands.

The move follows other British transport operators that are looking to mainland Europe to escape restrictive UK monopolies law. Most European countries are only just beginning to allow private companies to operate public transport services.

Arriva has paid an estimated £9 million for a 75 per cent stake in Vancom Nederland. The sellers, which include ATC Vancom, the US transport company, will keep a 25 per cent stake. Gordon Hodgson, Arriva's chief executive, said: "Vancom Nederland maintains excellent government relations and is well positioned to capitalise on the privatisation of the Dutch bus market and national rail system."

The Dutch operator, to change its name to Arriva, is currently the only private company to have won a competitive tender in The Netherlands, and it owns the right to run buses in the city of Groningen until 2004.

Vancom had turnover last year of more than £15.5 million with pre-tax profits of about £1.8 million. It has nearly 400 employees and operates more than 100 buses in Maastricht, Groningen and Flevoland.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Nokia wins £236m order from Orange

NOKIA, the Finnish telecoms equipment maker, yesterday secured a 2.1 billion markka (£236 million) contract from Orange, the mobile phone group, to expand its network. Nokia's shares rose 3 per cent to 425 markka (£48) as a result. Orange said that it had selected Nokia as its key supplier in the accelerated roll-out of its GSM 1800 network.

Nokia said it would supply Orange using the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) standard, with technology for advanced mobile services such as Internet browsing, online information, home shopping and narrowband TV. Orange said it would like to accelerate the roll-out of the new network and analysts said this showed operators in general trusted that Nokia was capable of delivering systems quickly. Orange said that co-operation with the Finnish supplier would help it to compete in the British market by providing depth and quality to its services. Hans Snook, Orange managing director, said: "The deal also gives us the opportunity to work together in the speedy development of exciting new services which will take wire-free communications forward into the next millennium."

Repsol open to offers

REPSOL has said that it is considering the sale of its UK petrol stations. It has 60 UK petrol stations operating under its own name and a further 300 under the Anglo name. The projected sale of some 360 petrol stations and a small refinery is in line with the group's strategy of focusing on the Iberian market. A company spokesman said: "We can confirm we are considering the sale of our UK stations, but there is nothing firm in the pipeline as yet. If there are any potential buyers we will study their offer. Our strategy is to focus on the domestic market and Latin America."

JSG buys TV factory site

J SAVILLE GORDON (JSG) has bought the former Ferguson television factory site near Fareham, Hampshire, for about £3.6 million. The 21-acre site contains a complex that consists of 430,000 sq ft of vacant factory and related accommodation. The company said that it would refurbish or redevelop this to provide a variety of competitively priced industrial and business units. JSG added that it had acquired the buildings at a competitive price and that it had an outstanding opportunity to create a viable industrial estate.

Disposals by Capital

CAPITAL and Regional Properties, the retail and leisure property company, said that it had completed the sale of Castle Retail Park in Nottingham to Helical Bar for £13.5 million and sold its retail warehouse investment at Orpington to Boots Pensions for £6.78 million. The sale price for Castle Retail Park represents an initial yield of 6.6 per cent. The property consists of six retail warehouses totalling 112,000 sq ft. The tenants include PC World, Topps Tiles, Aldi Stores, Homebase and Vardon Bingo.

Forth Ports sells hotel

FORTH PORTS has reached an agreement with Arcadian International to sell the Malmaison Hotel (Edinburgh) for £4.9 million. The sale is expected to be completed on March 18. Alistair Fleming, the chief executive of Forth Ports, said: "Although the Malmaison has been performing well, it is not part of our core business and so the opportunity has been taken to sell the hotel." Shares in Forth Ports were unchanged at 612½p after the announcement.

ACCOUNTANCY

Vexing question of VAT

Richard Watson explains the importance of keeping track of a fast-changing form of taxation



DES JENSON

Richard Watson says VAT can be managed in a positive way

What will happen to VAT during the coming year? For most of you this may sound like a particularly boring question. But if you are in business it is an issue that ought to concern you. VAT is the most pervasive tax that exists: it reaches into every nook and cranny of a business, and although it is supposed to be a tax on the consumer, in practice it imposes significant costs on businesses.

The most significant of those costs arise when businesses make mistakes in their handling of the tax. That is a pretty easy thing to do with a tax that already takes up something like two-and-a-half thousand pages of legislation at four different levels. Moreover, it is legislation that changes rapidly during the year.

At the last count there were 35 changes to VAT law in the course of last year, either because the Government had deliberately changed the law or because it had been forced to change interpretation because of court judgments. Those changes themselves can be incredibly detailed and reach into the very heart of the way a business operates.

The understandable reaction of many businessmen to this torrent of change is to give up. Understandable, but dangerous. With VAT at 17.5 per cent of your turnover plus 17.5 per cent of a large percentage of your costs, the amounts involved are just too large. Rather than giving up, the ideal situation would be to manage the tax in a positive way. That involves effort, but it can prove rewarding.

This management comes at many different levels. The most obvious is that of planning for new transactions. Whether the transaction is your latest marketing scheme, a new product, the building of a new head office or changes in the legal structure of the business, VAT should be factored into the planning at the early stages. I have seen too many cases where VAT becomes a deal breaker at the last moment because no one has thought about it early in the process.

If it is important to understand the VAT consequences of your current business decisions, it is also important to understand where the tax is going in the future. Only by keeping in touch with current developments is it possible to influence them. VAT is a European tax and the European Commission is conducting a wide-ranging exercise that could result in major changes early in the new millennium. At the moment the dialogue is very much between the Commission and the member states. The sooner that businesses start to think in terms of what these changes mean for their own activities and make their points to the Commission, the more realistic the outcome will be.

Finally, there is the management of VAT at the more mundane level of accounting and making returns. Very few businesses manage the process of accounting and paying over VAT in such a way as to maximise the benefits to them of that process. When you are acting as an unpaid tax collector for the Government, it is always good if you can recover some of the costs by using the system in your favour.

So what are my predictions for this year? The easy one is that there will be lots of changes in VAT legislation.

The second is that Customs & Excise will tighten its attitude towards what it sees as unacceptable avoidance of VAT. In this respect it is, of course, prosecutor, judge and jury, with the ultimate power to change the law to defeat what the taxpayer may well see as a legitimate opportunity to minimise his tax liability.

The main question for this year is to what extent Customs & Excise will continue to meet the threats it sees by individual changes in specific legislation, or whether it will go for a general anti-avoidance provision. My prediction is that it will continue with the former for the time being.

The commission is working hard at new plans for a common VAT system across Europe. This year it may see the light of day.

Finally, in the wider field of indirect taxation, there will be much more focus on the use of tax to achieve non-revenue ends. This already happens, particularly in the environmental field, such as with the landfill tax. This Government has developed a new philosophy, which is to use the tax system to signal changes in behaviour it thinks are appropriate. If it maintains this view we should see some interesting ideas being developed, enabling the State to point us all in the right direction — did I use the word nanny?

The author is head of indirect tax at Price Waterhouse.

Three bright ideas to kick-start tough year

IT IS that time of year when people do try to think things through anew. Never mind that within a few short weeks everything will become lost again in the chaos of everyday life. This is a brief period when a few gulps of oxygen are welcome.

The first bright idea comes from Simon Bevan, head of Arthur Andersen's Fraud Services Unit. It is the recognition that there is a trend, a cyclical element, in the occurrence of fraud and corporate disasters. Put quite simply it is that a company collapses, such as Barings for example, then a period of analysis and swift action ensues, followed by controls to ensure that the disaster cannot happen again. Gradually normality is resumed. The horrors of the failure soften as they become folk history. The adrenalin level falls. And between eight and ten years later another disaster occurs.

The important point is to recognise that there is a cycle to such events and that this idea should be programmed into any efforts to combat future disasters. It is precisely this point that has been lacking in the efforts of the Hampel Committee on Corporate Governance. This month, when the final report is released, we can only hope it is not another anodyne account of how we have all learnt our lessons, put some measures in place and can now believe with confidence that company directors are sensible and will not allow worrying things to happen.



ROBERT BRUCE

One of Bevan's colleagues at Arthur Andersen would agree. Robert Hodgkinson is chairman of the English ICA's financial reporting committee and at the end of the year it produced a discussion paper on the financial reporting of risk. The paper's main point was that companies should publish a statement of business risk with their accounts. This would not only identify key risks but would also describe the actions taken to manage them and a report on how this is measured. In the past this is the sort of thing that company directors have avoided like the plague. The suggestion that the sort of risks that can destroy a company never go away but come around in a cyclical way should focus minds.

The second bright thought comes from John Andrews, the Coopers & Lybrand partner who is president of the Chartered Institute of Taxation. He was in Canada just before the end of the year and, given the speculation about the possibility of anti-avoidance provisions in this country, checked to see how the Canadian tax people were getting on with their general anti-avoidance rule, which has now been in force for almost ten years. It has taken almost all that time for two cases to be brought to a legal conclusion, both lost by the taxpayers. And Andrews reports that words introduced into the tax code at the time, such as abuse, misuse, and tax benefit, are still defying interpretation.

Here, where there is still enormous confusion over the nature of tax avoidance, the problems would be much greater. The fashion for demonising tax avoidance as though it was criminal behaviour is not helping. Someone should try to redress the balance in the public arena. Tax avoidance is what pensioners are doing when they ask building societies to pay their interest gross rather than net, or when people take a car over to Calais and fill the boot with beer.

Andrews's bright thought is an extension of the arguments over equity, fairness and the intention of Parliament, which are much used in arguments about a general anti-avoidance provision. What he suggests is that to redress the balance there should also be a "general inadvertent relieving provision". This would, he suggests, cover those cases where any right-minded individual would have given relief or not subjected an amount to assessment on grounds of equity and fairness, or "if Parliament had thought about it, they would have so decided". This extension of the rights of the Inland Revenue to the taxpaying public would be a wonderful event. Andrews has offered to mediate on behalf of the taxpaying public "to decide when taxpayers should get the benefit of this provision".

The third bright idea is one that ought to strike the large accounting firms as they gear up for more efforts to bring about their planned mergers. At the moment all is well. Submissions are in Brussels, though the proposed merger of KPMG and Ernst & Young is now suggesting that as they are not merging true European partnerships they will escape the European jurisdiction. They are talking of what names they might append to their new megafirms. They are discussing whether to jettison the "heritage" names and follow the fashion of creating an abstraction, and hoping that they can append a meaning to it. They are all working incredibly hard but, as one observer put it this week, "they haven't got their tracksuits off yet". Implementing mergers is far harder than setting them up. It's going to be a tough old year in accountancy.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Do consultants really know best?

ARTHUR ANDERSEN partners who are still aghast at the idea of Andersen Consulting pulling the rug from underneath them and setting up as an independent firm should take comfort. It does seem that the old adage of consultants not listening to their own advice applies.

At about the same time as Andersen Consulting filed its request for arbitration to rid itself of any responsibilities towards its old parent company it also issued a report. It was called *Strategic Alliances in Financial Services*. It suggests that the trend in the financial services world is alliances; and ignoring its own current apocalyptic strategies it gives warning that "most organisations are far from prepared to successfully negotiate, structure and manage such alliances".

Perhaps the report was really written by the original Andersen business.

Mulling it over

PEOPLE who suggest that no good ever came out of VAT found their arguments refuted over Christmas. Bibulous souls cited the VAT tribunal decision in the McCormick case — a resounding defeat for Customs and Excise, which contended that a mulled wine mix should not be zero-rated.

The VAT tribunal also decided that its decision should include a recipe for mulled wine as well as a potted history of the drink. Practitioners for once took note of the detail within the tribunal's decision.

Name nonsense

THE new year is supposed to bring change — and for the firm of Clark Whitehill it has. To emphasise its membership of the Horwath network of accounting firms around the world it has changed its name to Horwath Clark Whitehill.

Elsewhere, the global changes have not gone as smoothly.

In America, accounting firms are licensed by the state authorities. But when the local Horwath firm in Texas sought to register its new name it found itself facing a bizarre demand for proof that there was an actual accountant called Horwath practising in Texas. In response it asked the authorities for copies of the birth certificates of competitors such as Mr KPMG and Mr William Welch Deloitte. It has heard no more of the matter.

Robert Bruce

Grift ... shop in Oxford Street yesterday, ... as a "practising Christian". He has ... newspapers. "We've put down pot-

مكذا من الإصل

Equities go into reverse

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

BANKS

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TEXTILES & APPARE..

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ASA

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

Source: FT Information

a Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ∆ Ex rights issue. ¶ Ex all. § Ex Capital Redemption. * Figures or report awaited. ... No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7986				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	137.51	146.54	+ 0.33	..
Do NAV to Mar 20	134.54	134.54		
UK Equity Safeguard	109.08	116.66	- 0.38	2.47
Do NAV to Mar 20	105.85	105.85		
Cash	958.20	962.99	..	5.75
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	382.10	406.30	+ 2.00	1.72
UK Small Cos	80.02	85.57	+ 0.30	0.49
FTSE 250 index	99.72	106.64	+ 0.45	2.11
Geared UK index	2379.63	2512.09	+12.00	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	82.74	86.05	+ 0.08	..
Monthly Inc	43.02	46.02	+ 0.38	8.72
International Funds				
American Gen	296.80	314.90	- 1.30	..
American Strat	239.05	255.85	- 2.08	
JG US Index	2349.51	2475.55		4.00
European Gen	335.60	355.30		
European Strat	144.88	154.94	- 0.70	..
Japan Gen	105.20	111.50	+ 3.00	..
Asia Pacific	62.87	67.06	- 2.02	1.08
Pacific Strat	98.39	105.22	- 3.09	
Greater China	179.56	192.05	-11.08	
Latin America	109.37	116.97	- 3.56	
Int Growth	167.82	179.47	- 1.32	
Balanced Exempt	154.60	160.00		
Global Strategy	47.58	50.88	- 0.19	..
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	860.20	915.10	+ 2.10	2.48
General Inc	701.10	745.80	+ 1.70	2.48
UK Growth Acc	594.00	631.90	+ 1.40	2.46
UK Growth Inc	375.50	399.40	+ 0.80	2.46
Higher Inc Acc #	1104.00	1174.00	+ 8.00	4.65
Higher Inc Inc #	566.60	602.70	+ 4.00	4.65
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	235.20	249.50	+ 0.40	5.54
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	97.98	103.50	+ 0.20	5.54
Nth America	424.60	451.60	- 3.50	
Europe	466.90	496.70	+ 2.30	0.57
Brit Excell	118.30	125.80	+ 0.30	2.30
Brit Fedrntc Acc	149.50	159.00	+ 1.50	4.38
Brit Fedrntc Inc	95.79	101.90	+ 0.90	4.38
Global Opps	112.30	119.40	- 0.10	0.26
Balanced Acc	74.11	78.83	+ 0.25	2.34
Balanced Inc	67.80	72.12	+ 0.23	2.34
Japan Acc	33.19	35.30	+ 0.58	
Pac Basin Acc	263.00	279.70	- 9.00	2.39
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	145.30	154.10†	+ 0.60	5.80
High Inc Equity	223.40	238.90†	+ 1.80	4.22
Worldwide Bond	276.80	293.60	+ 1.30	3.41
American Growth	527.20	562.40†	- 3.00	0.30
Asian Pacific	200.50	214.40	- 8.90	0.53
Assets & Earnings	347.10	371.20	+ 1.90	2.75
Euro Capital Acc	249.20	266.50	+ 0.20	0.75
Extra Inc	42.69	45.42†	- 0.02	9.16
General	321.50	342.00	+ 1.00	2.87
Global Opps	75.90	80.74	- 0.46	0.40
Japan	72.91	77.98	+ 1.23	..
Managed Inc	52.56	55.92†	+ 0.25	4.02
Mackintrust	185.70	198.60		1.12
US Emerging Cos	219.20	234.40	- 1.70	..
Ethical	91.70	97.55	+ 0.13	1.88
International	141.30	150.30	- 0.80	0.58
Dividend & Growth	82.02	87.26†	+ 0.74	4.00
Global Gwth & Sec	78.36	83.65	- 0.07	2.41
Latin America	80.95	86.12	- 1.88	0.78
Capital Reserve	154.50	154.50	+ 0.10	4.92
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
N&P UK Growth	114.80	122.10	+ 0.30	1.88
Equity Income #	162.90	172.80	+ 1.10	3.70
Extra Income #	310.60	329.70	+ 1.30	4.59
Smaller Cos	103.20	109.70	+ 0.20	2.02
International	130.10	138.30	+ 0.30	2.14
ABERDEEN UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
American	80.09	83.88	- 0.24	
Emerging Mkts	58.52	61.92†	- 1.38	0.19
European	173.54	182.52	+ 1.09	..
Extra Income #	59.73	63.20†	+ 0.13	4.44
Far East Emrg Eco	70.81	74.92†	- 1.84	1.13
Fixed Interest #	28.28	29.68	+ 0.02	7.79
Fxd Int Tst #	184.86	195.61†	+ 0.84	7.94
Japan	140.93	148.95	+ 2.62	..
Latin American	68.79	72.78	- 3.20	0.05
Pacific	52.22	56.25	- 0.68	0.22
Property	92.39	97.75†	+ 0.93	1.16
UK Emerging Cos	72.97	78.88†	+ 0.03	0.90
UK Growth	70.15	73.83	- 0.05	1.10
Abn World Port #	88.84	94.00†	- 0.10	2.50
Ethical	86.05	91.04†	+ 0.05	0.96
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.96	53.12†	+ 0.04	6.77
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2497.00	2602.00		
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5888				
Resort Property #	111.20	118.30		4.80
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	110.18	116.90	+ 0.70	1.70
Income Builder Inc	98.60	104.89†	+ 0.74	3.09
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Charitbl Ord Pens	139.50	144.90	..	..
Foundtn Persl Pens	81.74	84.92	..	..
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
American Sm Cos	449.30	478.00	- 5.60	
Bond	123.40	129.60†		6.43
Brit Smlr Cos	110.80	117.90†	+ 0.60	1.89
Europe	358.40	380.70†	- 1.00	
Euro Smlr Cos	126.60	135.00	+ 1.20	0.31
High Income #	70.43	74.93	+ 0.47	5.41
Income	419.40	446.20	+ 2.80	3.96
Japan	279.60	296.20	+ 9.80	
Latin American	110.60	117.70	- 2.90	
Pacific	68.30	72.65†	- 4.57	1.28
UK Smlr Cos	62.16	66.13†	+ 0.22	1.29
Japanese Sm Cos	454.10	468.50	+19.60	
Mngd Fd	242.40	257.20	- 0.50	2.44
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Oseas	430.90	454.70		0.77
Capital Gwth	164.10	173.60		2.42
Wwide Opps	237.00	250.70		0.89
BARCLAYS FUNDS LTD				
Customer Help Desk 0181 522 4000				
Income Funds				
Cash	100.20	100.20†	+ 0.10	6.77
Cash Acc	131.60	131.60		6.77
Income #	724.90	773.20	+ 4.00	3.89
Income Builder #	83.48	88.90	+ 0.45	4.50
Balanced Funds				
Exempt	108.20	115.10	+ 0.60	2.16
500	528.40	568.20	+ 2.90	2.07
General	411.50	440.00	+ 2.20	1.70
Property	265.00	284.30†		5.59
Trustee	288.10	306.50†	+ 1.00	1.65
CGF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	910.72	924.49	+12.11	3.78
Investment Acc	4422.81	4489.65	+105.11	..
Fixed Int Inc	133.66	134.20		8.84
Fixed Int Acc	269.90	270.98	+ 0.07	8.69
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Buckmn Intl	101.70	108.94	+ 3.80	5.78
Buck Bio-Tech	37.89	40.92†	..	..
Acorn Ethical Tst	225.45	239.84†		0.52
City Fin Assets	89.93	94.43		2.85
City Fst HIP	87.72	93.32	+ 1.22	0.06
Friars Hse Cap	372.05	395.80†	..	2.28
Buckley Wrld Gwth	139.74	148.12		
Sheer Utilities	85.19	88.02	+ 0.98	3.41
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	48.19	51.13	- 0.62	.
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	101.69	108.18	+ 0.59	.
Dragon Growth	42.73	45.70	- 1.73	1.58
Equity High Inc	118.12	124.99†	+ 0.73	3
-do- Accum	178.20	188.66	+ 1.10	3
Extra Income Inc	29.04	30.57†	+ 0.10	5.86
Extra Income Acc	34.20	36.01	+ 0.13	5.86
European Gwth	84.88	89.82	+ 0.76	0.04
Evergreen	36.08	38.58	+ 0.20	
General Equity	136.53	144.10	+ 0.96	2.20
Japan Growth	31.98	34.02	+ 0.96	..
Pedigree Gwth	82.22	87.00	+ 0.35	1.40
Pacl Sm Cos Inc	42.65	45.13	+ 0.14	1.28
-do- Accum	45.92	48.59	+ 0.15	1.28
Retirement Inc #	34.54	36.74	+ 0.17	4.86
Special Sits	56.17	60.40	+ 0.11	2.29
UK & Overseas	68.76	72.78	+ 0.42	0.43
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	82.75	86.19	+ 0.11	3.47
Capital	101.63	105.86	+ 0.25	1.86
High Income	57.46	59.87	+ 0.19	6.33
Top 50	75.69	78.84	+ 0.22	1.85
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	234.07	243.85	+ 0.61	4.16
Long Gilt	51.55	53.66†	+ 0.22	4.80
Monthly Inc Plus	60.11	62.62	+ 0.37	7.16
Preference Share	58.95	61.41†	- 0.42	6.35
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	167.85	174.86†	+ 0.99	5.51
Managed Fund	86.69	90.31	+ 0.09	2.35
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	52.57	54.77	+ 0.09	1.55
-do- Accum	62.87	65.50	+ 0.11	1.55
UK & General	125.76	131.01	+ 0.38	2.07
-do- Accum	168.52	175.56	+ 0.51	2.07
UK Growth	250.57	261.04	+ 0.57	1.51
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	277.66	289.26	+ 1.79	0.46
Far Eastern Gth	90.06	93.82	- 1.05	0.30
Global Bond	74.24	77.34	+ 0.35	4.96
Japan Growth	82.78	86.24	+ 1.52	..
North Amer Gth	311.79	324.82	- 1.65	..
Oriental Growth	53.19	55.41	- 1.86	0.68
Worldwide Growth	81.17	84.56	+ 0.05	0.31
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.77	92.77	+ 0.02	6.74
Homemaker Fund	103.00	109.59	+ 0.04	1.97
Dollar Fund	176.51	187.78	+ 0.30	1.68
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5968				
Consistent UT	42.30	45.23	..	2.74
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	199.90	212.50	+ 0.70	1.98
Income	90.39	98.21	+ 0.48	3.57
European Growth	95.64	101.58	+ 0.17	0.10
Recovery	218.70	232.70		1.82
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	1223.20	1242.00†	.	3.03
CREDIT SUISSE ASSET MGMT FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 378				
European Inc	88.19	93.60	+ 0.65	0.34
Fellowship Tst	122.70	130.50	+ 0.10	1.12
Income #	344.90	366.90	+ 0.70	3.79
-do- Accum #	953.20	1014.00	+ 2.00	3.79
Smaller Cos	238.50	253.70†	+ 0.30	0.73
-do- Accum	299.10	318.10	+ 0.30	0.73
Gilt Portfolio	120.50	128.10	+ 0.30	1.23
Mthly Inc Port #	102.40	108.90	+ 0.30	3.83
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 470 1634				
Global Sm Cos	1801.80	1824.40		0.56
UK Small Cos	2319.00	2421.70†		2.83
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	263.50	271.60		

FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS
Dealing 01722 715805 Enq 01722 715834

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
FP American	81.38	86.51	- 0.96	.
FP Am Smllr Cos	226.80	241.70	- 2.80	.
FP Asian Growth	152.80	162.90	- 8.90	..
FP Australian	420.00	448.00	- 5.40	..
FP Equity Dist	573.00	611.30	+ 2.59	1.79
-do- Accum	1308.00	1395.00	+ 6.00	1.79
FP Euro Gth	390.90	416.90	+ 1.10	
-do- Accum	428.30	456.80	+ 1.20	..
FP Intl Bond	58.83	62.26	+ 0.12	3.87
FP Intl Gth Dist	44.00	46.93	- 0.03	
-do- Accum	64.86	69.18	- 0.04	..
FP Pac Basin Acc	164.40	175.30	- 2.60	0.17
FP Income #	72.70	77.54†	+ 0.38	4.04
-do- Accum #	270.20	288.20	+ 1.40	4.04
FP Jap Smllr Cos	160.10	170.70	+ 4.10	
FP Monthly Dist #	88.18	94.05†	+ 0.34	4.61
FP Stlg Deposit	100.10	100.10†		6.11
FP Tokyo	64.14	68.41	+ 1.34	
FP UK Focus	53.75	57.33	+ 0.16	1.32
FP UK Growth	252.70	269.58†	+ 1.10	1.39
-do- Accum	523.90	558.80	+ 2.20	1.39
Stewardship Dist	487.40	519.80	+ 2.50	1.36
-do- Accum	624.10	665.70	+ 3.20	1.36
Stwrdshp Inc Dist #	79.62	84.92	+ 0.52	5.07
-do- Accum #	116.00	123.70	+ 0.80	5.07
N Am Stwdp Dist	160.50	171.10	- 2.00	..
-do- Accum	172.70	184.20	- 2.20	..
FP Exempt Trust				
Inst Ethical Io #	128.70	129.30†	+ 0.90	2.52
Inst Ethical Ac #	131.90	132.50	+ 0.90	2.52
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	148.10	157.50	+ 0.50	0.52
Open Cap Gth Acc	146.10	155.40	+ 0.70	0.72
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	134.80	143.40	+ 0.60	2.55
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	146.00	155.30	+ 0.80	2.55
Opn Cp Gth Ic #	139.60	148.50	+ 0.80	3.52
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	153.40	163.10	+ 1.00	3.52
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 106/7				
GANDA	375.40	395.20	+ 1.30	1.76
Cash	49.67	50.41		5.62
Income Portfolio	85.77	90.28	+ 0.04	2.26
GA Equity Gth	281.90	298.90	+ 1.30	1.23
GA European Gth	171.40	181.70	- 0.60	0.07
GA Japan Gth	74.52	79.17	+ 1.20	
GA Nth Amer Gth	304.70	323.00	- 2.60	0.04
GA Intl Gth	139.00	147.70	..	..
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 9431				
American Smlr Cos	256.60	274.50	- 1.70	0.12
European Gth	896.10	950.50	+ 5.80	0.50
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	61.14	64.73	+ 0.02	3.27
-do- Accum	71.37	75.56	+ 0.02	3.27
High Yield #	55.30	58.45	+ 0.33	6.87
-do- Accum #	65.85	69.60	+ 0.38	6.87
Income Inc	231.50	247.60	+ 1.10	3.59
-do- Accum	273.40	292.40	+ 1.30	3.59
Intl Growth	419.80	445.00	- 1.40	0.28
Intl Income	121.80	128.90†	+ 0.60	1.98
Japan Growth	388.60	411.30	+ 2.70	
Orient Acc	126.30	134.70	- 5.70	0.22
UK General Inc	237.00	252.90	+ 1.10	1.56
UK General Acc	429.80	458.60	+ 1.90	1.56
UK Sm Cos Div Acc	70.05	74.92	+ 0.49	1.56
UK Spec Sits	124.10	132.80	+ 1.10	1.14
US Growth	241.00	254.70	..	..
BARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
0171 782 2000 Digs only: 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	77.57	82.69	+ 1.15	1.61
Practical Inv Inc #	139.29	148.97	+ 0.20	3.23
-do- Accum #	348.49	370.58	+ 0.51	3.23
UK Index	226.93	239.07	+ 0.44	2.89
UK Smaller Cos	256.44	273.20	+ 0.62	0.32

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Stkg & Intl Gwth	33.89	36.47	- 2.21	..
Hong Kong Gwth	138.40	147.70	- 8.30	0.91
Global Bond	20.96	22.08†	+ 0.08	4.32
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	212.40	213.50†	+ 0.50	2.83
Trade Index	139.70	143.40	+ 0.40	3.28
THE FOOTSIE FUND	85.52	85.95†	+ 0.16	1.72
Index Funds-International				
American Index	399.10	401.10	- 2.90	0.47
Eurotrack 100	259.00	260.30	+ 1.60	0.69
Japan Index	46.40	48.64	+ 0.85	0.25
Tiger Index	73.17	80.96	- 1.47	1.91
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	52.48	54.81	+ 0.13	1.65
General Funds				
Managed Dist	96.85	101.10	..	1.02
Managed	100.80	105.30	+ 0.10	1.02
Rupert Child Fnd	137.20	142.80	+ 0.10	1.84
UK Growth	86.81	90.45	+ 0.12	1.56
High Income Funds				
UK Enter Inc #	110.48	115.30	+ 0.39	4.83
Gilt & Fixed Int #	29.16	30.13†	+ 0.07	7.21
UK Inc & Gwth	60.59	63.32	+ 0.02	2.57
UK Income #	458.30	489.10	+ 1.10	3.40
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	77.74	80.47	- 0.83	..
Asian Smllr Cos	192.60	208.90	- 0.80	..
-do- Accum	194.70	203.10	- 0.80	..
Europe Gth	306.30	319.00	+ 2.40	
-do- Accum	317.20	330.50	+ 2.60	..
Euro Smaller Cos	52.71	54.88	+ 0.24	..
French Growth	113.20	117.48	+ 0.60	0.53
-do- Accum	122.60	127.10	+ 0.70	0.53
H Kong & China	91.92	94.84†	- 6.16	0.63
Intl Growth	75.92	78.80	- 0.07	0.47
-do- Accum	77.47	80.58	- 0.07	0.47
Japan Gth	19.38	20.20	+ 0.47	..
-do- Accum	19.38	20.20	+ 0.47	..
Japan Smaller Cos	18.16	18.93	+ 0.46	..
Glob Emg Mkts	90.65	94.67	- 1.38	0.11
-do- Accum	91.30	95.35	- 1.38	0.11
SE Asia	186.30	194.20	- 8.80	0.69
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond #	50.56	52.12†	+ 0.16	5.98
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 690448				
UK Income #	137.70	145.70	+ 0.10	2.80
UK Growth	143.30	151.60	..	1.39
Euro Growth	120.00	127.00†	+ 0.60	1.76
Slater Gwth	240.70	254.70	+ 1.40	0.79
New Japan	56.00	59.08	+ 2.67	
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	185.60	197.30	+ 1.20	..
Income #	272.61	290.01	+ 0.85	3.87
UK Growth	102.46	109.00	+ 0.23	2.11
Intl Growth	95.94	102.06	- 0.33	0.43
Ecology	119.93	127.59	+ 1.06	0.67
European	256.40	272.68	+ 1.32	0.48
Far Eastern	248.90	262.60	+ 0.90	..
UK Special Sits	68.70	73.29	+ 0.35	0.35
Fd of Inv Tsts	59.61	63.57†	- 0.17	0.42
High Income #	61.47	65.56	+ 0.22	4.81
Financial Opps	54.93	58.59†	+ 0.72	...

For Kleinwort Benson see Dresdner RCM

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 407 5966				
Bridge Income	384.76	409.32	+ 3.78	4.34
Enk Growth	117.37	124.86	..	0.54
Inc & Growth	87.81	93.42†	+ 0.12	3.33
Smaller Cos	108.16	115.06	+ 0.42	1.42
Env Spec Sit Inc	66.45	70.69	- 0.02	1.62
Env Spec Sit Acc	70.34	74.83	- 0.01	1.62
Premier Growth	57.71	61.39	- 0.21	3.06
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01277 690 432				
UK Cap	565.00	599.50	+ 0.70	1.45
UK Inc/Gth #	608.20	645.30	+ 0.20	2.98
UK Income #	426.40	452.40	+ 1.10	4.16
UK Sm Cos	334.00	358.20	+ 0.10	1.82
Euro Gwth	199.90	211.40	+ 0.60	0.26
N Amer Gwth	153.70	163.00	- 0.90	..
Pacific Growth	5.87	6.23	- 0.21	0.75
Emg Mkts Gwth	64.55	68.26	- 1.30	..
Japan Growth	43.23	45.83†	+ 0.56	..
Dealing: 01277 542626				
Gwth Port Inc	81.92	86.83	+ 0.35	0.61
Gwth Port Acc	83.63	88.49	+ 0.35	0.60
Inc Port Inc	77.02	81.45	+ 0.34	3.35
Inc Port Acc	88.81	93.92	+ 0.39	3.23
Wwde Port	63.15	66.78†	+ 0.21	.
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries: 01222 448412 Dealing: 01222 683512				
Equity Dist	751.30	751.30	+ 1.00	1.97
-do- Accum	1598.00	1598.00	+ 2.00	1.97
Equity Income #	125.70	125.70	+ 0.60	4.54
UK Tacked Allocto	85.90	85.90†	+ 0.08	5.03
European	186.80	186.80	+ 0.90	0.14
Far Eastern	150.70	150.70	- 1.70	..
Fixed Interest	59.81	59.81†	+ 0.21	7.16
Gilt	98.99	98.99†	- 0.01	5.87
Global Growth	83.62	83.62	+ 0.15	0.41

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	1537.60	1626.20	+ 0.90	1.40
Gilt Income	69.56	69.68	+ 0.21	5.80
-do- Accum	225.55	225.94	+ 0.68	5.80
Gold	36.20	38.30†	- 0.80	1.17
-do- Accum	43.70	46.30†	- 0.70	1.17
Income	41.50	43.90†	+ 0.10	4.11
-do- Accum	187.50	198.30†	+ 0.50	4.11
Intl Growth	91.80	98.20	+ 0.30	0.83
-do- Accum	162.10	171.40	+ 0.50	0.83
International Inc	129.40	136.80	- 0.50	3.95
-do- Accum	214.80	227.20	- 0.80	3.95
Japan	21.90	23.10	+ 0.20	0.18
-do- Accum	23.50	24.70	+ 0.10	0.18
Japan Smlr Cos	75.70	79.90	+ 2.10	0.13
-do- Accum	76.20	80.50	+ 2.10	0.13
Managed Gwth	29.40	31.00		1.47
Managed Income	35.80	37.40†	+ 0.10	4.02
Pension Ex	1327.20	1360.40	+ 2.32	3.26
Recovery	56.70	60.00†	+ 0.30	2.61
-do- Accum	100.80	106.60†	+ 0.40	2.61
Smaller Cos	71.00	75.10	+ 0.10	2.56
-do- Accum	151.10	159.70	+ 0.20	2.56
Sth East Asia	233.90	247.30	-10.10	2.39
-do- Accum	318.50	334.60	-13.70	2.39
Treasury	25.10	26.10†		6.49
Trustee	52.80	55.80	+ 0.20	4.50
-do- Accum	239.80	253.70	+ 0.90	4.50
UK Equity	84.60	89.50†	+ 0.20	3.84
-do- Accum	241.90	256.00†	+ 0.60	3.84
UK Growth	1348.70	1426.20	+ 1.80	1.86
-do- Accum	1525.40	1613.10	+ 2.20	1.86
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	134.06	142.63	+ 1.16	0.41
Intl Bond	62.22	65.38	+ 0.07	3.63
Intl Equity Growth	95.26	101.15	+ 0.49	0.53
N Amer Growth	182.66	193.81	+ 1.26	0.58
Special Sits Growth	35.31	37.56	+ 0.14	1.32
UK Growth	580.49	617.54	+ 2.33	2.24
-do- Accum	818.54	870.76	+ 3.29	2.24
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1469.30	1487.30	..	2.90
Income #	1170.60	1187.60†	..	4.30
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	188.40	193.80†	..	3.63
MANEK INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
0171 615 7070				
Growth Fd Acc	96.55	102.60	- 0.10	...
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
High Income #	104.70	107.90	+ 0.10	6.24
Investment Pflo	208.60	216.00†	- 0.30	2.09
-do- Accum	255.90	263.80†	- 0.20	2.09
UK Select Pflo	199.40	205.80†	- 0.20	1.91
-do- Accum	247.20	254.90†	- 0.20	1.91
UK 100 Cos	155.10	155.10	- 0.30	1.93
-do- Accum	161.30	161.30	- 0.30	1.93
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 354 842				
Managed Tst	81.45	86.65	+ 2.49	2.73
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	100.60	106.80†	- 0.20	4.17
European	128.70	135.60	- 0.29	0.25
Income #	103.10	109.40	..	3.86
Nth American	118.60	125.90	- 1.80	0.23
Far East	131.50	139.60	- 1.80	...
Japan	49.20	52.23	+ 1.35	...
Emrging Mkts	81.67	87.28	- 2.30	0.63
Intl Growth	144.70	153.60	- 1.70	0.51
UK Growth	148.50	157.60	- 0.10	1.74
UK Smlr Co	66.19	70.27	+ 0.15	1.46
Asia Pacific	25.93	27.73	- 0.88	0.43
Glob Gwth PEP	73.45	77.95	- 0.33	0.62
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0161 831 7433				
Select Portfolio	109.60	116.60	- 0.20	.
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Income	602.28	640.72	+ 2.39	2.90
Global Inc	93.30	99.26	+ 0.26	2.51
Brit Leaders Inc	468.20	498.09	+ 0.31	1.60
Intl Leaders	286.35	304.63	- 0.48	0.92
PNM Mg Bal Gth	75.62	78.73	+ 0.17	0.21
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0800 445522				
American	364.19	383.80†	- 3.70	..
-do- Accum	389.30	410.20†	- 3.90	..
American Opps	149.40	158.90	- 1.30	
-do- Accum	151.30	160.90	- 1.30	..
Bal Port	111.00	117.80	+0.600	2.52
-do- Accum	139.80	148.40	+0.600	2.52
British Blue Chip	125.10	133.80	+0.900	2.46
-do- Accum	166.00	178.50	+1.200	2.46
Cash	101.20	101.20		6.89
-do- Accum	157.40	157.40	+0.100	6.89
Emerging Mkts	132.30	142.90	- 2.50	0.22
-do- Accum	134.20	144.30	- 2.60	0.22
European Growth	423.30	448.30	+2.500	0.12

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Acumen Reserve	111.20	112.30	+ 0.20	6.13
-do- Inc	80.25	81.05	+ 0.19	6.13
American Growth	87.40	88.21	- 0.82	..
Equity Income #	130.60	133.80†	+ 0.40	3.65
European	102.40	104.50	+ 0.20	
Smaller Cos	95.70	101.00	+ 0.30	1.66
Wwide Eqty	87.20	93.00	- 0.24	0.14
Global Bond	42.12	42.55	+ 0.17	4.54
UK Growth	133.70	137.80	+ 0.60	1.26
Pacific Growth	68.57	70.43	- 2.30	2.20
Japan Growth	77.30	78.68	+ 0.80	
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Avon Equity	192.09	204.35†	+ 0.91	1.77
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS				
0171 623 4200				
Americas Dist	158.30	168.60†	- 0.80	0.01
European Dist	192.90	203.60†	+ 0.50	0.18
Far East Dist	117.70	123.90	- 0.90	0.05
Global Care Dist	103.00	108.40†	+ 0.40	0.27
Ocean Dist	1111.90	1170.40	- 3.10	0.18
-do- Accum	1446.80	1522.90	- 4.10	0.18
UK Dist	538.30	567.70†	+ 0.79	1.46
-do- Accum	1122.50	1181.60	+ 1.50	1.46
UK Extra Inc Dist	111.80	117.80		3
Wwide Dist	122.90	129.40		0.33
Wwide Inc Dist	99.80	105.10	+ 0.10	1.63
NATWEST UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
Dlg: 0870 601 6147 Admin Enq: 0870 603 9188				
Europe Inc	101.01	105.61	+ 0.66	0.34
Fund of Funds Inc	77.41	81.70†	+ 1.02	0.89
North America Inc	82.23	87.84	- 0.73	..
UK Equity Gth Inc	89.58	93.25	+ 1.04	1.42
-do- Accum	98.01	103.44	+ 1.14	1.42
UK General Inc	82.19	86.74	+ 0.14	1.51
-do- Accum	93.27	98.44	+ 0.17	1.51
UK Gilt/Fx Int Inc	50.08	52.75†	+ 0.12	5.76
UK Income Inc	83.29	87.92	+ 0.18	2.09
UK Smlr Cos Inc	136.24	143.79	+ 0.44	0.99
NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0800 614 330 Dealing: 0500 440 000				
American	66.67	70.92	+ 0.44	
-do- Accum	67.19	71.47	+ 0.43	
Bond	136.45	145.17†	+ 0.46	4.39
Cash Income	50.49	50.49†		6.65
-do- Accum	73.23	73.23†	+ 0.01	6.65
Challenger	94.42	97.25	+ 0.41	0.88
Distributor	131.96	140.38†	+ 0.92	1.83
European	78.15	83.13	+ 0.02	
Foundation	133.54	142.08	+ 0.37	1.15
General Inc	271.60	289.03†	+ 4.73	1.03
General Acc	278.32	296.08†	+ 4.83	1.03
Growth Inc	170.97	181.88	+ 0.31	1.04
Growth Acc	178.78	190.19	+ 0.32	1.04
Higher Income Inc	43.21	45.96	- 0.09	3.80
-do- Accum	54.79	58.28	- 0.10	3.80
High Yield Bond #	99.33	103.25†	+ 0.31	7.12
Income	358.62	381.51†	+ 6.63	2.39
Intrepid	174.71	181.98†	..	1.37
Intl Gwth	46.19	49.13	+ 0.08	..
Japan	23.20	24.68	+ 0.51	..
Oriental Inc	103.15	109.73	- 4.41	0.63
-do- Accum	106.04	112.76	- 4.57	0.63
NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD				
0191 285 2555				
High Income #	57.95	61.33†	+ 0.12	5.31
UK Growth	141.60	149.80†	+ 2.40	2.40

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Equity Inc #	74.97	78.30†	+ 0.41	3.18
UK Fixed Int #	54.61	57.65†	+ 0.12	6.53
Portfolio Service PEP				
Pep Gth Port	59.58	61.75	+ 0.22	..
Pep Inc Port #	81.69	83.31	+ 0.33	2.74
First Assets Global Investment Funds				
A Shares				
Asian Opps ‡	34.35	...	- 1.47	..
Asia Pacific ‡	32.93	...	- 1.39	1.43
Europe ‡	48.62	...	- 0.06	..
Japan ‡	40.18	...	+ 0.61	...
Latin America ‡	43.28	...	- 1.09	.
North America ‡	50.46	...	- 0.54	..
UK Eq Income #	51.78	...	+ 0.23	3.71
UK Major Cos ‡	51.04	...	+ 0.19	0.96
UK Smaller Cos ‡	54.55	...	+ 0.04	1.02
ROYAL & SUN ALLIANCE UT MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6883				
Royal & Sun Alliance Trusts				
Equity	1392.00	1472.00†	+ 4.00	1.49
Equity Income #	142.50	150.70†	+ 0.80	3.94
European	225.50	238.60	+ 0.70	..
High Inc Bond	52.19	52.27	+ 0.10	5.74
Portfolio	134.20	142.10	- 0.10	1.05
UK Index Trckg	252.60	267.30	+ 0.70	4.46
UK Leading Cos	106.50	112.80†	+ 0.10	1.86
UK Smaller Cos	141.70	149.90†	+ 0.50	1.17
Royal Life Trusts				
High Inc Dist	216.40	223.60	+ 1.20	2.92
Intl Caledonian	69.46	73.84	+ 0.10	4.10
Intl Growth	89.93	95.16†	- 0.25	...
Intl Spec	78.34	83.34	+ 0.03	...
Managed	215.30	231.50		0.64
Pacific Basin	57.88	61.82	- 1.09	0.62
United States	173.60	183.60	- 1.50	0.29
Sun Alliance Trusts				
European	191.30	204.50	+ 0.90	.
Far East	120.80	127.50†	- 2.30	.
North America	256.20	274.00†	- 1.80	...
Wwide Bond	56.21	59.08	+ 0.23	4.43
ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01206 764 400				
American Growth	254.40	270.00	- 2.30	1.00
European Growth	204.60	217.10	- 1.00	1.02
Far East Growth	96.53	102.70†	- 1.80	2.72
Japan Growth	78.39	83.38	+ 0.88	0.98
Special Sits	260.30	276.90	+ 0.40	1.93
UK Growth	132.30	140.70†	+ 0.50	2.38
Inc Growth	319.90	340.40	- 1.30	1.82
ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD				
0141 307 5500				
Far East Inc	108.50	114.80†	..	1.09
Gtr Euro Prog Inc	552.00	584.10†	..	0.72
-do- Accum	870.80	921.60†	..	0.72
Growth Inc	178.80	189.40	..	0.10
-do- Accum	185.10	195.90	..	0.10
International Inc	480.00	507.90	..	0.40
-do- Accum	665.80	704.60	..	0.40
Nth Am & Intl Inc	512.40	542.20	..	1.54
UK Gen Prog Inc	316.00	334.40†	..	1.59
-do- Accum	372.00	393.80†	..	1.59
UK High Inc Inc	183.70	194.40	..	5.05

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Prof Inc #	110.00	117.09†	- 0.40	8.10
Smaller Cos	290.70	309.29†	- 0.30	0.80
Ireland SSB Recognised				
UK Equity Inc ‡	108.85	...	+ 0.27	4.46
Sterling Reserve ‡	101.12	...	+ 0.02	5.33
Corporate Inc ‡	104.14	...	+ 0.15	5.15
Tax Plus ‡	78.42	...	- 3.23	..
Aztec ‡	83.50	...	- 2.58	..
Amer Gth Fund ‡	373.77	...	- 0.84	..
European ‡	202.18	...	+ 0.78	3.00
Global Bond ‡	91.51	...	+ 0.27	7.00
Samurai ‡	41.47	...	+ 0.65	..
UK Growth ‡	128.84	...	+ 0.08	2.64
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	97.65	...	- 0.25	2.86
Investment Trust ‡	123.75	...	- 0.22	1.71
The Football Fd ‡	82.19	...	+ 0.10	..
Reserve Roll Up ‡	103.15	...	+ 0.16	..
Dreach Reserve ‡	101.81	...	+ 0.27	3.84
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS				
0171 637 5377				
American	564.70	597.50†	+13.50	...
Capital	171.00	180.90	+ 0.30	1.22
Cash	101.66	101.95	+ 0.01	6.78
European	195.50	207.80	- 0.30	0.18
Far Eastern	128.90	136.40	+ 0.20	
Growth	205.10	217.00	+ 0.20	1.23
Income #	171.40	181.30	+ 1.10	4.50
Magnet	177.00	187.30	+ 0.10	1.35
Smllr Secs	656.50	694.70	+ 2.10	0.18
Thoroughbred	206.50	218.90†		1.27
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0800 73 71 003				
Caldd Balance	62.22	66.51	+ 0.44	7.00
Ethical	92.21	98.62	+ 0.60	1.66
European Growth	104.30	110.80	+ 0.90	0.07
Income #	72.09	77.01	+ 0.32	4.27
Intl Growth	122.40	122.70	- 0.89	0.15
Managed	110.00	118.50		0.39
UK Growth	89.65	94.82	+ 0.48	1.27
STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS				
0800 33 33 53				
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd				
Global Advtg Inc	52.30	52.57	- 0.10	0.55
Global Advtg Acc	57.44	57.73	- 0.10	0.58
Income Advtg Inc	44.81	45.84	+ 0.19	3.27
Income Advtg Acc	54.46	54.78	+ 0.20	3.27
UK Equity Gth Acc	125.28	132.08	+ 0.80	1.13
Provider Inc Inc	54.03	55.93†	+ 0.20	0.32
Provider Inc Acc	62.18	64.28	+ 0.20	0.32
Managed Acc	71.65	76.17		1.83
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc	52.85	56.13	+ 0.38	3.38
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc	73.18	77.98	+ 0.40	3.38
UK Smlr Cos Acc	56.77	60.37	+ 0.10	0.48
Standard Life Tst Mngmt Ltd				
UK Equity Gen Acc	103.40	109.90	+ 0.38	1.39
UK Equity Gen Inc	72.77	77.32	+ 0.26	1.39
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	34.78	36.79	+ 0.10	5.98
Overs Lng Co Acc	375.90	407.90	- 2.40	4.54
Nth American Acc	75.22	79.93	- 0.30	0.01
Pacific Basin	30.55	32.46	- 0.80	1.50
European Acc	70.02	74.40	- 0.29	0.01
Japan Acc	19.83	21.07		0.75
STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD				
0171 344 7000				
Global A (NZ$)	5.437	5.774	+0.019	1.76
US Eqty (US$)	4.683	4.986	+0.013	0.62
Far East Eqty (yen)	218.70	232.30	- 1.60	..
FT Europe	198.80	211.20	+ 3.50	0.90
FT N Amer (US$)	3.821	4.059	-0.050	..
FT Japan (yen)	103.30	109.10	- 2.00	..
FT Asia Ex Jap (US$)	2.059	2.187	-0.106	0.67
STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 226 3271				
American	627.50	662.80	- 4.00	
British #	1588.30	1678.20	+ 1.30	2.15
Emerging Mkts	157.20	167.80	- 3.10	0.54
Euro Gwth Inc	121.90	129.00	+ 0.80	..
Euro Small Co	83.07	87.17	+ 0.48	..
Japan	85.04	90.16	+ 2.49	..
Asia Pacific	312.70	333.00	- 8.70	1.80
-do- Accum	340.20	362.30	- 7.30	1.80
Inv Trust Acc	330.07	349.90	- 0.90	1.02
Mngd Equity	238.50	252.80	+ 0.80	1.65
Mngd Cash	95.46	95.46	+ 0.01	6.69

Source: FT Information

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return). † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle prices; # Periodic Charge deducted from Capital; @ Exit Charge.

NEW MOVIES: Shallow ... chase ... short ... a Fox

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NEW MOVIES: Willis and Gere do their best, but *The Jackal* is not a patch on its classic namesake, says **Geoff Brown**

Shallow chase short of a Fox



Richard Gere, surprisingly good as an IRA terrorist turned good guy, opens up an alternative escalator route in the slick but empty thriller, *The Jackal*

Sometimes it is worth sitting through the endless scrawl of closing credits as the rest of the audience shuffles to the exit. Take **The Jackal**: "Bruce Willis's security provided by SISS Ltd. Facial Hair for Mr Willis provided by Erwin H. Kupitz."

These are important details. Willis's stature, in his eyes at least, is now so vast that normal film unit security will not do: he must cocoon himself with his own private bodyguards. It fits ill, however, with the character he plays: a hired killer so brilliant that he runs the FBI ragged, and can gun someone down in between bites of Korean takeway food. Such a man should not need SISS Ltd.

And the facial hair? One's immediate thought goes to Willis's hairline, a source of concern for some time now. Then light dawns: the credit refers to the disguises adopted by the Jackal as he moves across Europe, Canada and America en route to his target, a figure high in the American political sphere, identified only towards the end.

This was not the goal in *The Day of the Jackal*: both Frederick Forsyth's novel and Fred Zinnemann's film concerned an English killer out to assassinate Charles de Gaulle. In February last year, only a month before he died, Zinnemann won his fight to stop Universal Pictures using the exact title for its updated, much-altered remake. He was right to want to keep the two films separate. *The Day of the Jackal* is as focused and lethal as its central character, chillingly played by Edward Fox. *The Jackal*, directed by Michael Caton-Jones, wanders about in search of thrills, finding a few, missing others, never hitting a sustained level of inspiration.

Willis himself, though, is eminently watchable: cold as ice, menace poking through every word or gesture, light relief surfacing only occasionally, such as when he cruises a gay bar in Washington DC and picks up a pawn in his master game.

A motley bunch chases the Jackal's tail. Richard Gere is the most surprising member, for he plays, and plays reasonably well, an IRA terrorist called Declan Mulqueen, sprung from prison to help in the FBI's pursuit. ("FBI jet provided by Dassault Falcon Jet Corp. Mr Gere's Dialogue Coach, Brendan Gunn.") But the most forceful is Diane Venora as the brusque Russian intelligence officer Valentina ("Ms Venora's Dialect Coach, Lilene Mansell"). There is also a graceful turn by Sidney Poitier as the FBI's deputy chief (no dialogue coach required).

Caton-Jones assembles the chases, the near misses and face-offs efficiently enough, but without any great originality. *The Jackal* suffices as a splashy modern mainstream thriller; but do not expect *The Day of the Jackal*.

No dialogue coaches or facial hair experts were required for **The Winter Guest**, although artifice still hangs heavy in the air. This is Alan Rickman's film directorial debut, and its material is the stage play he commissioned from Sharman Macdonald and directed at the West Yorkshire Playhouse and the Almeida Theatre in 1995. Visually, we seem far from a theatrical experience: characters get out and about in the frosty Fife locations, lovingly photographed by Seamus McGarvey, the sea frozen over by digital enhancement. But we are still left with a script whose carefully clipped words, poetic resonances and symbols are fashioned for the theatre rather than cinema. Serious import is everywhere; natural flow is nowhere.

So who is the winter guest? At first it seems to be Phyllida Law, clambering over frozen fields in her fur coat to reach the home of Emma Thompson (her daughter both off-screen and on). Thompson herself is frozen in grief since her husband's death; defying infirmities, mother arrives to bicker and cajole her back to life. Other couples come and go along the streets and beaches: chattering biddies filling their days attending funerals; schoolboys playing truant; Thompson's teenage son, coming of age with a neighbouring flirt. But by the end, after so much talk about youth and old age, the winter guest might well be death.

In Macdonald's script, adapted with Rickman from her play, characters are constantly weighing life in the balance. The talk is couched in theatrespeak, pregnant with significance. A theatre audience, impelled by make-believe, can digest such language with comparative ease; but the camera's eye lays bare all contrivance.

Conventionally good acting is thin on the ground in **The End of Violence**, although one hardly expects it in a film by Wim Wenders, wandering chronicler of the philosophically challenged and the dispossessed. But, since this is an English-language venture (his first since *Paris, Texas*), with internationally known players, a modicum of dramatic conviction might be thought useful. We do not get it from Andie MacDowell, at her most vacant as the disaffected wife of Bill Pullman, a Hollywood producer of violent movies; nor from the two actors who play Pullman's kidnappers, forced into unfunny comedy; nor indeed from Gabriel Byrne as the surveillance wizard who realises he himself is being watched.

Even when the cast maintains an even keel, we are still left scratching our heads at the amount of twaddle Wenders makes them speak, or the way he dangles situations before us without making clear their relevance. *The End of Violence* is likely to satisfy no one: too cryptic for mainstream audiences, not meaty enough to please the art houses.

Nothing is fuzzy about **Kissed**, a Canadian film so sure of its perverse subject-matter that you either succumb or you walk out. The heroine tells us in the opening seconds that she has always been fascinated by the feel, the smell, the stillness of death. A funeral parlour, then, is the perfect place of employment. At night she sneaks in to make gentle love to the best-looking corpses. Then a live lover, a medical student, rolls up. What to do?

Lynne Stopkewich, the first-time director, knows exactly what to do. She plays it cool and poetic, and lures us by slow degrees into the heroine's strange world, helped on her way by a poised and seductive performance from Molly Parker. No morality is invoked; nothing is staged for titillation. Instead, we are left to make our own judgments, and ponder not so much death and corpses but the attraction of extremes. This is a unique film, hard to forget.

The opposite is true of **Picture Perfect**, a shallow romantic comedy with Jennifer Aniston as an ad agency executive who needs a fiancé to get ahead — a strange requirement, these days. A weak script, dull acting and indifferent direction (by Glenn Gordon Caron) combine to produce the picture lousy.

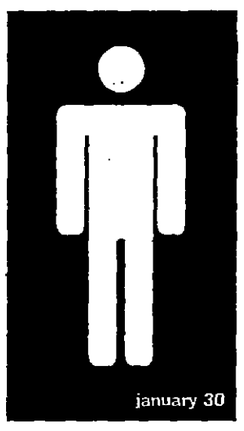
The Jackal
Empire, PG, 126 mins
Meet Bruce Willis, killer for hire

The Winter Guest
Odeon Haymarket, 15, 109 mins
Meet Alan Rickman, film director

The End of Violence
Curzon West End
12, 122 mins
Wim Wenders goes off at half-cock

Kissed
Metro, 18, 78 mins
Stylish necrophilia from Canada

Picture Perfect
Warner West End
PG, 101 mins
Pallid romantic comedy



SNAP VERDICT

'A tense thriller'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases . . .

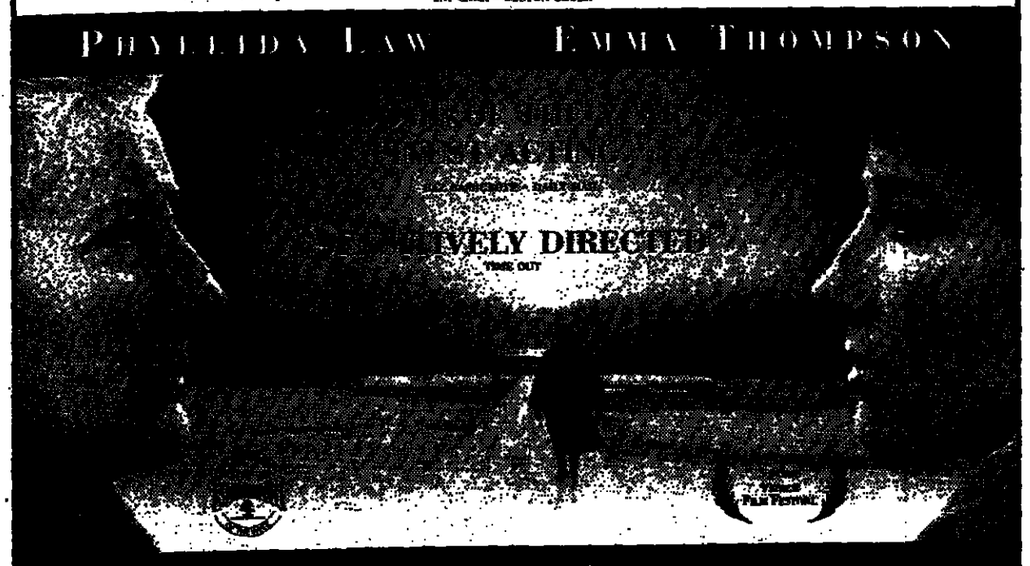
☐ ***THE JACKAL***
Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 20: A tense thriller littered with great one-liners.
Laura Brook, 19: We've seen this kind of performance from Willis before, but Richard Gere is surprisingly good.
Carl Clark, 19: Probably the best performance I've ever seen from Gere.
Emma Rolph, 19: Willis and Gere turn this average thriller into great entertainment.

☐ ***PICTURE PERFECT***
Leslie: An elongated version of *Friends* but without the laughs.
Laura: A daft, unfunny film.
Carl: Jennifer Aniston could easily make the transition to film star, but she'd need a much better script.
Emma: I laughed. Not very much, but I did laugh.

☐ ***THE WINTER GUEST***
Leslie: Highlights the vulnerability in us all.
Laura: A funny, often moving vision of a Scottish coastal town.
Carl: Emma Thompson and Phyllida Law are wonderful.
Emma: A great script and flawless performances make this a winner.

"GOODFELLAS' MEETS 'PULP FICTION'" TIME
"INCANDESCENT... A CINEMATIC TOUR DE FORCE" DAILY MAIL
"FAST, FURIOUS AND DEEPLY RAUNCHY" COMPANY

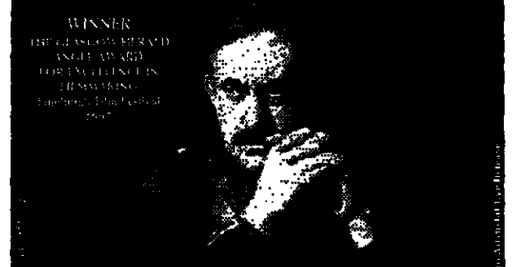
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"A BEAUTIFUL, EMOTIONALLY GENEROUS FILM WITH SHINING PERFORMANCES BY REAL-LIFE MOTHER AND DAUGHTER" JAY CARR – BOSTON GLOBE
PHYLLIDA LAW EMMA THOMPSON

"...LOVELY DIRECTED" TIME OUT
A FILM BY ALAN RICKMAN
THE WINTER GUEST 15
No matter where you hide, life will always find you.
PHYLLIDA LAW EMMA THOMPSON "THE WINTER GUEST" SHEILA REID SANDRA VOE ARLENE COCKBURN GARY HOLLYWOOD SEAN BIGGERSTAFF DOUGLAS MURRAY MICHAEL KAMEN ROBIN CAMERON BUN JOAN BERGIN SCOTT THOMAS SEAMUS McGARVEY ALAN J. WARDS STEVE CLARK-HALL SHARMAN MACDONALD ALAN RICKMAN KEN LIPPER EDWARD R. PRESSMAN ALAN RICKMAN
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"A GLORIOUS FILM. HELENA BONHAM CARTER DESERVES TO WIN AN OSCAR. PLEASE DON'T MISS IT". THE DAILY MAIL
"THE YEAR'S MOST POWERFUL PIECE OF GROWN-UP SEX ON CELLULOID". THE GUARDIAN
"SUMPTUOUS, SMART AND FULL OF GLAMOUR". THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY
"RAVISHING TO LOOK AT... ABSORBINGLY CRAFTED AND PLAYED". ALEXANDER WALKER, EVENING STANDARD

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"Some of the best acting you will see this year" THE SUNDAY TIMES

JONATHAN PRYCE JAMES WILBY JONNY LEE MILLER
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BRIEFLY NOTED

Bags of talent

EXHIBITIONS: *You could* call it art. You could call it shopping. Or you could call it a row of 64 carrier bags. That is the latest example of "installation art": an exhibition called *Please Re-Use*, which opens at Tesco Metro in Market Street, Manchester, next Monday. But these are no ordinary carrier bags. They were collected in Romania by the Manchester-based artist Tanya Meditzky, and are said by connoisseurs to *symbolise* that country's plunge into consumerism. Or, according to the artist, to be about "looking beyond a nation's media image to find that life is complex and amusing".

DANCE: After recently announcing an extension into February of the West End *run of Cinderella*, the management of Adventures in Motion *Pictures has now decided* that it was over-optimistic. Instead, Matthew Bourne's production, which sets the familiar fairytale in 1940s London, will close on Saturday after a three-month run at the Piccadilly Theatre. Bourne's company is still hoping to take his *Swan Lake* to Broadway later this year.

POP: The British are back. According to the chart compilers CIN, nine of the ten bestselling albums of 1997 in the UK were by British acts. The only non-British artist was the Canadian Celine Dion, which meant that for the first time since the chart began in 1958 there were no American acts in the UK Top Ten. What's more, in America the top-selling album (*Spice*) and single (*Candle in the Wind*) were by British acts.

The bestselling albums in the UK were (in order) *Be Here Now* (Oasis), *Urban Hymns* (The Verve), *Spice* (Spice Girls), *White On Blonde* (Texas), *Spiceworld* (Spice Girls), *The Fat of the Land* (Prodigy), *Let's Talk About Love* (Celine Dion), *OK Computer* (Radiohead), *Greatest Hits* (Eternal), *The Best Of Wham!* (Wham!).

DRAMA: Helena Bonham Carter will portray her own grandmother in a new BBC Radio 4 play. Called *Lantern Slides*, the play dramatises the diaries and letters of Violet Asquith (later Lady Violet Bonham Carter), and explores the love affair of Violet, daughter of the Prime Minister, and Archie Gordon, son of another prominent Liberal, the Earl of Aberdeen. *The play is broadcast on* February 24 at 2pm.

POETRY: T.S Eliot's glum masterpiece *The Waste Land* is proving to be a real *crowd-puller*. Deborah Warner's staging of the work, performed by Fiona Shaw at Wilton's Music Hall in East London, was due to close on Sunday, but will now be performed twice nightly from Tuesday to Sunday next week. Tickets through the National Theatre (0171-928 2252).

DANCE: Debra Craine on the opening night of the Royal Ballet's classic staging of Frederick Ashton's *Cinderella* at the Festival Hall

Chic Guillem unconvincing in rags

Ashton's supreme achievement in *Cinderella*, British ballet's first full-length creation in 1948, was the pairing of two antithetical aesthetics: the aristocratic formality of Imperial Russian ballet and the common farce of English pantomime. But if his *marriage of social opposites is to* succeed on stage, the casting must be right. Which is where Sylvie Guillem comes in.

She was the Royal Ballet's opening night Cinderella on Tuesday. Guillem is not normally associated with the Ashton repertoire — the ravaged heroines of MacMillan's sex-and-death dramas being more to her taste — and *Cinderella* shows why. Surrounded by the clutter of bickering relatives and obsequious tradesmen, Cinderella needs to glow with an inner radiance and a purity that transcends her life of drudgery. It is she who embodies the ballet's classical heart, a modest heroine swept up in the grandeur of a palace life proclaimed in classical language of the utmost beauty.

But Guillem doesn't glow, she glitters — with an immodest glamour wholly at odds with the coded femininity of fairytale. From the moment we first set eyes on her, Guillem exudes confidence and continental chic, despite the grey rags: It is also immediately clear that she will tell us little with her mime, for the subtleties of face and gesture are lost on Guillem. Only when she dances does she open herself up to a range of emotional expression, even if here it is out of step with the delicate refinement of classical demeanour.

Guillem also has an exceptionally pretty international style, comely and decorative, although the extremes of her technique — those lopsided ultra-high leg extensions — are completely out of synch with Ashton's design. Act II's virtuosic ballroom sequences find Guillem at her best, spinning giddily as she laps up the luxury of high society.

Her Prince Charming was Inaki Urlezaga, stepping in for an indisposed Jonathan Cope. Urlezaga is young and eager, and making the most of the opportunities suddenly coming his way. As a partner the Argentinian looks a match for the challenging Guillem and he dances well, with an assured presence and a determined technique. But as yet there is little of real warmth in their partnership.

The Fairies variations at the end of Act I throw a very literal curve to some of the academic writing, and they are tricky to carry off with ease. Nicola Roberts (Autumn) and Genesia Rosato (Summer) stood out. Christina McDermott was a fine Fairy Godmother, utterly convinced of the magic in this fairytale. The Step-Sisters, a double act in drag, can go either way: coarse or coquettish. On Tuesday night the veteran team of David Drew and Oliver Symons chose the former and drew few laughs — a charmless duo. Giacomo Ciriaci, though, produced an uproarious cameo as the little Napoleon suitor.

In the pit we had the Kirov's masterly Viktor Fedotov, conducting the Royal Ballet Sinfonia. He teased out Prokofiev's luscious melodies with tantalising pleasure and when the occasion called for it, he let rip with full orchestral lustre. Happily, Fedotov is with us until the Royal's Festival Hall season ends on Jan 17.

Kitsch in the kitchen



Dario Fo has said that productions of his work outside Italy tend to be too obviously funny. They are "so overloaded with effects, stuffed so full of gratuitous gags" that their political impact gets lost. If memory does not deceive me, that was true of the West End staging of *Trumpets and Raspberries*, as the play was called in 1984: but I cannot recall regretting the fact, maybe because I was too busy laughing at Griff Rhys Jones's clowning to notice that Fo the preacher was not getting the hearing he wanted.

But what, I wonder, would the Marxist farceur make of the revival that Juggling Fiends Theatre has brought to Notting Hill? The company does little but strain to be funny, and it fails even in that limited endeavour. Certainly it is doing a considerable disservice to Fo. Some of us are still wondering whether his peculiar mix of didactic paranoia and physical fun really merited a Nobel Prize; but we would prefer to see our views challenged by a good, faithful production rather than justified by an amateurish mess.

Klaxons, Trumpets and Raspberries, as Jonathan Dryden Taylor now translates the piece, was written in 1981, not long after the murder of Aldo Moro. Fo's conceit is that the Fiat boss Gianni Agnelli has been disfigured in a failed abduction by the Red Brigades. He is mistaken for Antonio Berardi, the car-worker who saved him, and given his rescuer's face by plastic surgeons. That handed Rhys Jones and now hands Robert Thorogood the opportunity to play both the magnate and the prole — and since Antonio's wife cannot tell them apart, and the police think one or both are terrorists, he has every chance to create comic mayhem onstage.

Well, every chance is botched in a production that, surely unwisely, has been directed by Thorogood himself. There is knockabout with a dummy meant to represent the bandaged Agnelli and, later, with secret servicemen disguised as household furniture; but it is inept. Likewise with what I recall as the play's funniest scene, the force-feeding of the supposed industrialist through a bizarre mincer strapped to poor Antonio's head.

It does not help that some 15 roles are played by four actors, only one of whom, Tamsin Stanley, is yet up to prolonged exposure to an audience that, on the first night, largely consisted of unsmiling reviewers. There was so much rushing about and nervous jabber that an already complex plot seemed near-inscrutable.

For the record, Fo's point is not merely that Italian politics is deeply corrupt. It isn't just that police violence is endemic and arms deals and other underhand wangles are normal. It is that the Government allowed Moro to be killed so that it could distract attention from its own injustices while proving itself "strong on terrorism". Yet when it thinks Mr Fiat has been kidnapped, it promptly cedes every Red Brigade demand, for Mr Fiat is the economy, and the economy is the state.

What has this to do with Britain in 1998? A baffling reference to Tony Blair and an over-the-top one to Bernie Ecclestone serve only to reinforce the answer: not a lot. But then miscalculation is, I fear, this revival's characteristic and curse.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

MARILYN KINGWILL



Putting satire through the mincer: Madeleine Bamford and Robert Thorogood forcefeed the audience with Fo's fun

Friends and enemies

CLOSE friends may not be best friends is the awkward truth that emerges from Andrew Payne's double bill, his first stage plays after writing numerous episodes for such series as *Minder* and *Lovejoy*. Another wry truth follows. Unless some catastrophe actually wrecks a couple's lives, the treacherous friend might be more of a help than a hindrance.

This is the sweet'n'sour conclusion to the first of Payne's pair, though *funny'n'furious* better describes the tone of what leads up to its neat ending. Alan and Brian are a TV scriptwriting duo whose successes include work on *X Squad*, *Blagger* and *Not On My Lawn, Sidney*. Payne's precise choice of titles means that, without being told anything more, we can guess the content of the shows exactly.

Gary Oliver's Alan is the careful one, the slogger and actual joke-writer, his spectacles are impressive and he wears pressed cords. Philip Bird's Brian reels in late, hung over when not drunk, and a *total pain; but what he can do* is haul out of his personal sea of alcohol a succession of wild and wonderful storylines.

Payne's own storyline follows Alan's revolt (a screenplay written on his own), its success (John Malkovich wants it) and Brian's terrible revenge. Brian is such an arrogant, patronising horror that my critical stance took a battering as he spat his mean, whingeing vituperation at the doormattish Alan. The mockery of TV sitcoms does wind on too long, though memorably includes the character the pair have been told to develop, a trendy vicar with pierced nipples who doesn't believe in God. Somehow I can guess everything that will happen to this one, though I never foresaw the future ingeniously contrived for Alan's screenplay.

Squash offers the two actors the chance to swap the roles of dominance and dependency. The weekly squash club encounters of a pair of City highish-flyers traces their developing extramarital affairs. Oliver's Ryan is the smooth operator, with something Mephistophelian in the word pictures he paints of busty Suzanne and impetuous Lesley. In contrast, Greg is the man grateful for punishment, and in this role Bird's curiously lipless mouth no longer suggests meanness but hesitancy and unpunished guilt.

The second play's final crisis need not be delayed so long but this only slightly loosens the tension, generated by a shrewd psychology combining with sharp writing and situational know-how. Bill Pryde's skills as a stage director have not been dulled by his years with films and television: a sense of passing time is acutely suggested, likewise the shifting concerns of the two pairs of men. Both the sets are designed by Nina Garner, and the observant will note how the window wall of the first play cunningly becomes the skylit ceiling of the second.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Big-toned and big-boned

CONCERTS

Ivashkin/Schnittke

Wigmore Hall

The first thing you notice about the cellist Alexander Ivashkin is the size of his tone. It is generous to an extravagant degree, and from the opening bars of his Wigmore Hall recital with Irina Schnittke on Tuesday night, it was clear that this was to be a commanding performance. His accompanist, the wife of the composer Alfred Schnittke, was not to be outdone: she raised the lid of the piano to its full height for an uninhibited exploration of the instrument's tonal potential.

The Prokofiev Cello Sonata Op 119 with which they opened was an ideal vehicle to display their joint talents: ample tone and big-boned phrasing sculpted paragraphs of great expressive warmth, though there was a hint too of something more sinister just beneath the surface.

As Schnittke's biographer and wife respectively, this cellist and pianist had something particularly revealing to say in the two sonatas. The First Sonata of 1978 frames a Presto with two Largo movements, and Ivashkin tore into the former with a furious agitato. The movement was built to a visceral climax, marked by a spectacular double forearm smash on the keyboard. Ivashkin began the finale with impassioned playing high in the register, descending to the depths of despair.

Schnittke's Second Cello Sonata, dating from 1994, is constructed similarly, with three slow, desolate movements framing two fast, hectic ones. The players had the measure of it, from the opening, spare cello recitative to the understatement of the final movement. The performance always managed to suggest something just out of reach.

Shostakovich's Cello Sonata Op 40, by contrast, was given its head, both in the first movement's rich vein of Romanticism and in the second movement's forthright ebullience, which bordered on savagery. After the deeply felt meditation of the third movement, there was an unmistakable dark undertow to the exuberance of the finale.

BARRY MILLINGTON

New and note able

The Park Lane Group's series of Young Artists Concerts is an important annual fixture, but the parade of deserving players through new or rarely heard music can often seem a little earnest. So the unusually varied programmes and the spotlighting of a special talent made Tuesday's pair of concerts unexpectedly rewarding.

In her early evening recital, the Ukrainian pianist Evgenia Chudinovich displayed all the qualities it takes to be an outstanding musician. She knows how to communicate with her audience, and has the virtuosity of not just fingers but hands and arms that marks her out as a natural pianist. To her choice of Soviet-period works by Shostakovich, Dmitry Smirnov and Sofia Gubaidulina she added David Bedford's haunting *In Memoriam*.

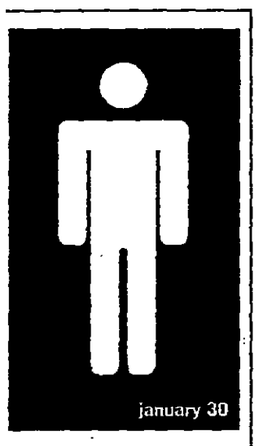
Smirnov's carefully crafted Two Intermezzi and the captivating Shchedrin encore disclosed Chudinovich's control of sonorities well. But it was the main work, Gubaidulina's Sonata, that really showed off her capabilities. She was convincing in drawing together all the strands of the first movement, which ranges from upbeat jazziness to dark desolation, and dispatched the horrendously difficult finale with ease.

Another Soviet-born composer, Edison Denisov, featured in the performance by the saxophonist Sarah Markham and pianist Stephen de Pledge. His exuberant Sonata culminates in what sounds like a frenzied jamming session, and it brought out the best in both players. De Pledge offered supple support in Lucie Robert's *Cadence*, enabling Markham to give a lively performance full of the freedom this score needs.

The highlight of their programme was Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Two Elegies Framing a Shout*, a piece which turns the conventional fast-slow-fast format inside out. Clamouring outbursts followed by lengthy silences make up the "shouts" and other striking ideas include the saxophone playing over undampened piano strings to produce shimmering echoes. Given its premiere, Robert Walker's *Souvenir de Bali* proved to be a breezy, hypnotic piece of no pretension.

Alasdair Tait and Jeremy Young, a cello and piano duo, were less interesting, although Diana Burrell's *Heron* did not give them much opportunity to shine: Tait's tone sounded dry in the fragmented cello passages. Both players were better in Elliott Carter's Cello Sonata.

JOHN ALLISON





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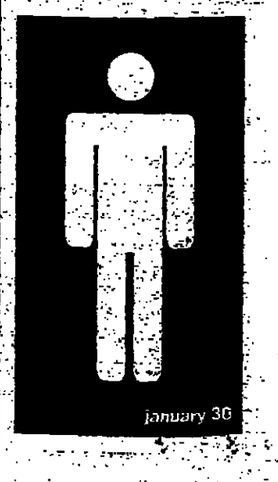
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عكس من الأصل

Sweet, but not cloying

NEW ON VIDEO

■ **ONE FINE DAY**
Fox Pathe, PG, 1997
TWO single parents juggle kids and careers in this genial comedy set in New York. Michelle Pfeiffer is with an architects' firm, currently wooing a major client; George Clooney, fiery newspaper columnist, is busy pursuing a major scandal. How can they do their jobs when circumstances leave them with their respective five-year-old offspring on their hands? Clooney displays an easy charm; Pfeiffer, too, is in fine form, subtly shifting her character between the self-centred high-flyer and the harassed, loving parent. The children veer a little towards the cute, but no lasting damage is done. A rental release.

■ **THE DEVIL'S OWN**
Columbia TriStar, 15, 1997
ONE of the more foolish films of last year is now available to rent. Brad Pitt is an IRA terrorist who slips into New York to buy missiles. Lodging is found with Harrison Ford's upright cop, who has no knowledge of Pitt's identity. In the early scenes, as the two bond together, we weigh the moral niceties of their positions. But then the film fragments into gunfire, thuggery, chases and a fight over a bag of money. Alan J. Pakula is the unfortunate director.

■ **WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND**
Cinema Club, PG, 1961
BRYAN FORBES launched himself as a director with this skilfully bizarre drama about three children who misunderstand a tossed-off expletive and assume a fugitive murderer (Alan Bates) to be Jesus Christ. Sharp detail, fine photography of bleak North Country landscapes and no-nonsense acting from Hayley Mills — the film is based on a novel by her mother, Mary Hayley Bell — and the other children all help to keep feyness at bay.

■ **MURDER AT 1600**
Warner, 15, 1997
WANT to pass the time without being too rigorously entertained? Then rent this silly film, set in the White House, where an office worker has been found murdered in a washroom cubicle. Secret Service agents try to contain the damage, but Wesley Snipes's homicide detective noses around regardless. Meanwhile the well-meaning President (Robny Cox) is embroiled in a hostage crisis with North Korea. With some ingenuity and discipline this could have made quite a lively thriller, but director Dwight Little settles for something no better, or worse, than the average TV movie.

■ **BROKEN ENGLISH**
First Independent, 18, 1997
A FILM from New Zealand about cultural assimilation, featuring Croatian immigrants, a Maori who works in a Chinese restaurant, and two Chinese sweethearts anxious to make "little Kiwis". There is much fruitful material here, although director Gregor Nicholas reduces its potential by styling the film as a heavy drama of star-crossed lovers. Rade Serbedzija sets the tone as the Croatian father, solving arguments with a baseball bat and imprisoning his own daughter for daring to become the Maori's lover. Available to rent.

GEOFF BROWN



Mae Whitman, George Clooney and Michelle Pfeiffer get close in a scene from the comedy *One Fine Day*

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: Henze's doomed mermaid; crack comic performance; viols to the fore

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ **HENZE**
Undine
Donohoe/London Sinfonietta/Knussen
DG 453 467-2 ★★★★ £29.99
THE score of Henze's *Undine* (better known to ballet-lovers in this country as *Ondine*) is one of the composer's favourites, yet apart from the handful of works he has drawn from it, it has hitherto enjoyed no independent life outside the theatre. Oliver Knussen's exemplary new recording with the London Sinfonietta (Peter Donohoe as the solo pianist) should change all that, revealing the music to be eminently accessible, indeed positively Romantic in a way that often harks back to the 19th-century composers who also found inspiration in the tale of the mermaid who fatally returns a mortal's love.

The salient themes — the fragility of love, the barriers in the way of mutual understanding — are shown to be as potent as ever. Henze captures the evanescent realm of the spirits in a lush score that features many delicate touches alongside an apparently irrepressible energy.

John Higgins

■ **MEYERBEER**
L'Etoile du nord
Futral/Takova/Hall/Ognev/National Symphony Orch of Ireland/Jurowski
Marco Polo 8.223829-31 (three CDs) ★★ £41.99
MARCO POLO selects one opera annually from the Wexford Festival for recording. The 1996 choice, *L'Etoile du nord*, could hardly be more Wexfordian in spirit, an untypical work by an unfashionable composer.

Meyerbeer drops his normal grand manner, or a bit of it, for the *opéra comique* form in an anecdotal piece about Peter the Great, who begins disguised as a carpenter and continues as an army captain before revealing himself in imperial robes. The Siberian bass, Vladimir Ognev, does not have the most flexible of voices but commands enough authority to suggest a tsar who likes having a good time among the proletariat. The plum role, though, goes to Catherine who sells pies and still becomes tsarina. It was a favourite of Jenny Lind and Elizabeth Futral, in a crack performance, shows that she too can wear the shoes of the "Swedish nightingale".

The rest of the cast is so-so, and the young baritone Christopher Maltman much better than that. Jurowski's orchestra starts thinly but by the Act II finale is making the kind of sound Meyerbeer might have liked to hear.

Hilary Finch

■ **VARIOUS**
Sit Fast
Fretwork
Virgin Classics 5 45217 2
★★★ £15.99
FRETWORK is the name of a consort of viols who are as happy in the 20th as in the 16th century. Two years ago they tangled with Graham Sheffield's highly imaginative notion, when he was director of the South Bank, to commission new consort pieces for Purcell year, and this disc celebrates the outcome.

I remember being particularly taken at the time by Elvis Costello's poignant tributes to the spirits of both Dowland and Purcell in his *Put away forbidden playthings* for the counter-tenor Michael Chance. Here it is, as part of an incredibly diverse programme of old and new in which a teasing musical conundrum by Christopher Tye (1505-1573) jostles with Tan Dun's haunting *A Sinking Love*, and Sally Beamish's own sounds and sweet airs, sung by tenor Paul Agnew. *Her in dreaming* pays its own oblique tribute to both Purcell and Sir Michael Tippett, and precedes discriminating performances of Ferrabosco and Ockeghem.

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

★ Worth hearing
★★ Worth considering
★★★ Worth buying

LONDON

LONDON SCHOOLS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Diana Burrell's Flute Concerto, given its world premiere here tonight, was written for the distinguished flautist William Bennett — the evening's soloist and a principal flute with the LSSO shortly after its genesis in 1951. An otherwise East European programme features Borodin, Suk and Dvořák. John Lubbock conducts.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight. S

PLG YOUNG ARTISTS: There is more music by Burrell at the South Bank where she and David Bedford are this year's featured composers in the Park Lane Group's current series of concerts. At 7.30pm the Chameleon Wind Quintet and Martin Cousin, piano, perform Burrell's Wind Quintet and Bedford's Piano Piece I. The programme also offers a piece by Thomas Adès and a first London performance of Bacchus Bagatelles by Philip Grange. The earlier concert at 6pm by Zoe Martlew, cello, and Jonathan Powell, piano, includes works by Elliott Carter and Bernd Alois Zimmermann.
Purcell Room, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242).

NEVER LAND: Set in a French village, where a family is obsessed with the England they have never visited, Phyllis Nagy's latest play is a co-production with The Foundry. Steven Pimlott's strong cast includes Michelle Fairley and Sheila Gish, Anthony Calf and Pip Donaghy.
Royal Court Upstairs (Ambassadors), West St, WC2 (0171-565 5000). Previews from tonight, 7.45pm. Opens Jan 13, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Sat (Feb 7), 4pm. Until Feb 7.

CHAMBER MUSIC: Young people dominate the London music scene tonight and the fruits of exciting youthful collaboration can be sampled here too as two consummate musicians, the German violinist Christian Tetzlaff and the Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes — both under 30 — join forces for an evening of glorious music. On the programme are sonatas by Mozart, Brahms and Bartók.
Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm. S

ELSEWHERE

GLASGOW: Philip Prowse's impressive cast for The Relapse, Vanbrugh's famous comedy, includes Benedick Bates, Greg Hicks and Yolanda Vazquez; with Jack Klaff as the ineffable Lord Foppington. National tour from February.
Citizens, Gorbals (0141-429 0022). Free preview Jan 8, 7.30pm. Opens Jan 9, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm.

MANCHESTER: Vernon Handley conducts the Hallé Orchestra in a programme of music by English composers. On the programme are Bax's *The Garden of Fand*, Britten's Piano Concerto and Elgar's Symphony No 2. The piano soloist is Piers Lane.
Bridgewater Hall, Lower Mosley Street. (0161-907 9000). Tonight, 7.30pm S

NOTTINGHAM: Opera diva Lesley Garrett's continued tour of the nation stops here for one performance only. On the programme are excerpts from *Don Giovanni*, *Madam Butterfly*, *Eugene Onegin*, *The Bartered Bride*, and other favourite operas. She is accompanied by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Peter Robinson.
Royal Concert Hall, Theatre Square, (0115-948 2626). Tonight, 7.30pm. S

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargie



Music by Diana Burrell at two London venues

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: The Schilling Bequest of Old Master Drawings (0171-323 8525) . . . **Design Museum:** A tour of bicycle design history (0171-378 6055) . . . **Fine Art Society:** Glyn Philpot, RA (0171-629 5116) . . . **Museum of London:** Bedlam: Custody, care and cure (0171-600 0807) . . . **National Gallery:** Hogarth's Marriage A-la-Mode (0171-747 2885) . . . **National Portrait:** Hyenas in Petticoats: Mary Wollstonecraft and Mary Shelley (0171-306 0055) . . . **Royal Academy:** Victorian Fairy Painting (0171-439 7438) . . . **Tate:** Turner on the Loire: The Tour through Northern France (0171-887 8000) . . . **V & A:** Hogarth After Hogarth: A Legacy of Inspiration (0171-938 8349/8441)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
S **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

ALEGRIA: Cirque de Soleil returns. Acrobats, contortionists, fire dancers doing marvels with their bodies, usually high up in the air.
Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212) Tue-Sun, 7.45pm; mats Fri (tomorrow only), Sat, Sun 2.30pm. Until Jan 25. S

BUGSY MALONE: The cast of the National Youth Music Theatre fire their splurge-guns in the spoof gangster musical derived from Alan Parker's movie. Jeremy Taylor directs.
Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5041). Mon-Sat, 7.30; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. Until Jan 17

☐ **CYRANO DE BERGERAC:** The sell-out RSC production from Stratford, with Antony Sher as Rostand's tragic romantic hero, in London for a limited season. Gregory Doran directs.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (0171-494 5054). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2pm.

S **A DELICATE BALANCE:** Eileen Atkins hauntingly chilling in welcome revival of Albee's play about marriage, parenthood and neighbourliness. Maggie Smith plays the drunk sister.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. S

S **DO YOU COME HERE OFTEN:** The sublimely funny couple, Hamish McColl and Sean Foley (aka The Right Stuff), arrive in the West End with their hit fantasy of two men trapped in a bathroom.

THE INVENTION OF LOVE: Tom Stoppard's new play with John Wood as the elderly A. E. Housman, careful to keep his love life private, unlike Oscar Wilde, who also appears. Paul Rhys plays the young Housman and Michael Bryant is Cheron fanying the dead across the Styx. Richard Eyre directs.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.15pm. S In rep.

S **A LETTER OF RESIGNATION:** Edward Fox and Clare Higgins play Harold Macmillan and Lady Dorothy in Hugh Whitemore's play about the effects of the Profumo scandal. Christopher Morahan directs.
Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

S **THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR:** Ian Judge's jolly production, with Leslie Phillips being crammed into the laundry basket by Joanna McCallum and Susannah York. Edward Petherbridge plays Ford.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Today, 2pm and 7.15pm. In rep.

LONG RUNNERS

S **Blood Brothers:** Phoenix (0171-369 1733) . . . S **Buddy:** Strand (0171-930 8800) . . . S **Grease:** Cambridge (0171-494 5080) . . . ☐ **Martin Guerre:** Prince Edward (0171-447 5400) . . . S **Les Misérables:** Palace (0171-434 0909) . . . ☐ **Miss Saigon:** Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) . . . ☐ **The Mousetrap:** St Martin's (0171-836 1443) . . . ☐ **Oliver!:** Palladium (0171-494 5020) . . . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera:** Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) . . . ☐ **The Woman in Black:** Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

NEW RELEASES

◆ **STARSHIP TROOPERS** (15): Hot-shot soldiers battle alien insects. Brazen blockbuster with great effects and a cheeky attitude. Paul Verhoeven directs.
ABC Tottenham Court Rd (0171-636 6148) Odeons: Camden Town (0181-315 4229) Kensington (0181-315 4214) Marble Arch (0181-315 4216) Swiss Cottage (0181-315 4220) West End (0181-315 4221) Screen/Baker Street (0171-935 2772) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3303) Virgin Chelsea (0171-352 5096)

◆ **THE WINGS OF THE DOVE** (15): Pretty but pitiful adaptation of Henry James's novel, with Helena Bonham Carter and Linus Roache.
Barbican (0171-382 7000) Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) Gate (0171-727 4043) Screen/Baker Street (0171-935 2772) Screen/Green (0171-226 3520) Screen/Hill (0171-435 3388) Virgin Fulham Road (0181-870 6016) Virgin Haymarket (0181-870 6016) Warner (0171-437 4343)

WRITTEN ON THE WIND (PG): Irresistible melodrama from 1956, with Robert Stack and Dorothy Malone as tortured children of an oil tycoon. Lush direction by Douglas Sirk.
Curzon Phoenix (0171-369 1721) Everyman (0171-435 1525)

CURRENT

◆ **ALIEN RESURRECTION** (18): Sigourney Weaver's Ripley returns to combat more aliens in a jaunty sequel that ultimately gets out of hand. With Winona Ryder. Director, Jean-Pierre Jeunet.
Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) Mezzanine (0181-315 4215) Virgin Trocadero (0181-870 6015)

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (18): Reckless teenagers get their comeuppance. Variable horror film from the writer of Scream. With Jennifer Love Hewitt, Freddie Prinze Jr.
Curzon West End (0171-369 1722) Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) Swiss Cottage (0181-315 4220) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) UCI Whiteleys (0990 888990) Virgins: Fulham Road (0181-870 6011) Trocadero (0181-870 6015) Warner (0171-437 4343)

◆ **L.A. CONFIDENTIAL** (18): Smashing drama about corruption in LA in the early 1950s, with Kevin Spacey, Russell Crowe, Kim Basinger, Guy Pearce and Danny DeVito.
ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) Panton Street (0171-930 0631) Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) Odeons: Camden Town (0181-315 4229) Kensington (0181-315 4214) Marble Arch (0181-315 4216) Swiss Cottage (0181-315 4220) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) UCI Whiteleys (0990 888990) Virgins: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) Fulham Road (0181-870 6011) Haymarket (0181-870 6016)

◆ **SPICEWORLD** (PG): Five crazy days with the Spice Girls. Good as merchandise, but lousy as a movie. With Richard E. Grant and celebrity cameos galore. Director, Bob Spiers.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) Barbican (0171-638 8891) Empire (0990 888990) Greenwich (0181-235 3005) Odeons: Camden Town (0181-315 4229) Kensington (0181-315 4214) Marble Arch (0181-315 4216) Swiss Cottage (0181-315 4220) UCI Whiteleys (0990 888990) Virgins: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) Fulham Rd (0181-870 6011) Trocadero S (0181-870 6015)

◆ **TOMORROW NEVER DIES** (12): Pierce Brosnan's James Bond combats an evil media mogul (Jonathan Pryce). Set piece thrills, but little sparkle. Director, Roger Spottiswoode.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) Greenwich (0181-235 3005) Notting Hill Coronet (0171-727 8705). Odeons: Camden Town (0181-315 4229) Kensington (0181-315 4214) Leicester Square (0181-315 4215) Marble Arch (0181-315 4216) Swiss Cottage (0181-315 4220) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) UCI Whiteleys (0990 888990) Virgins: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) Fulham Road (0181-870 6011)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr) ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET Derek Deane's New Production THE NUTCRACKER Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sat Mat 2.30 pm Tickets from £7.50

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24 hr) ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Tue 7.30 EUGENE ONEGIN

THE ROYAL BALLET Box Office 0171 304 4000 at the Royal Festival Hall Box Office 0171 969 4242. Tickets also available from Ticketmaster on 0171 957 4020. Tom't, Tomor 7.30 Sat 2.00 & 7.00, Mon, Tue, Wed 7.30 CINDERELLA "Ashton's Cinderella is the best there is" D Tel

THE ROYAL OPERA Box Office 0171 304 4000 at the Shaftesbury Theatre Box Office 0171 379 5399. Tickets also available from Ticketmaster on 0171 957 4020. Tom't, Tomor, Sat (Last Night) 7.30 THE MERRY WIDOW

THEATRES

ADELPHI cc 24hrs (£1 bkg fee) 344 0055 "A show to die for" Telegraph "Dripping with style" Express CHICAGO THE MUSICAL RUTHIE HENSHALL UTE LEMPER HENRY GOODMAN NIGEL PLANER Mon-Sat 8, Wed & Sat Mats 2.30

ALBERY 369 1730/344 4444 "You'll be dancing on air" D.Mail STEPPING OUT THE NEW MUSICAL Tapping a rich vein of joy" Times "IT'S THE FULL MONTY WITH TAPPERS-GLITTERING" D.Mir TAPPERS-GLITTERING" D.Mir "JUST WONDERFUL" Int.H.Trib Evgs 8pm Mats Thur 3pm Sat 4pm

ALDWYCH 0171 416 6003 cc 344 4444 "Dame Judi is triumphant in Hare's masterpiece" D.Mail JUDI DENCH SAMANTHA BOND RONALD PICKUP JOYCE REDMAN The National Theatre Production of AMY'S VIEW New play by DAVID HARE Directed by RICHARD EYRE 28 PERFORMANCES ONLY Evgs 7.30, Sat Mat 2.30

THEATRES

ALDWYCH 0171 416 6000 Andrew Lloyd Webber and Jim Steinman's new musical WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND Opens July 1 Box Office opens Feb 1

APOLLO 24hr cc 0171 494 5070 cc 0171 344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 494 5454 BEN ELTON'S POPCORN "Electrifying...bloodcurdling comedy...I recommend it with relish" John Peter Sun.Times "The West End has found its resident Playwright" IOS Mon-Sat 8.00pm Mats Wed 3.00pm Sat 4.00pm

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 416 6075/413 3321 Andrew Lloyd Webber's STARLIGHT EXPRESS THE FASTEST SHOW ON EARTH White knuckle runs 19.45 daily Tue & Sat 3pm Tickets from £12.50

APOLLO LABATTS Hammersmith 0171 416 6022 cc 0171 420 0000 344 4444 (bkg fee) LAST CHANCE TO SEE RIVERDANCE THIS CENTURY LAST WEEK MUST END 10 JAN Tue-Sat 8, Sat Mat 2.30 DAP w/students standby £15 all perfs

A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS "The nearest thing to Xmas at Dingley Dell" Dly Expr "Best Panto in London" BBC Radio 2 Players' Theatre WC2 "BABES IN THE WOOD" MATS Sunday 3pm Eves 8.15pm ENDS FEB 8TH Lunch, Tea, Dinner, Supper avail Children £5.50. Bkg 0171 836 1134



CAMBRIDGE 494 5080/416 6080 344 4444/420 0000 (+ bkg fee) Grps 494 5454 416 6075/413 3321/436 5588 GREASE NOW IN ITS 5TH FANTASTIC YEARE LUKE GOSS as Danny until 24 Jan; IAN KELSEY From 26 Jan "A Monster Hit" D.Mirror Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat mat 3pm BOOKING TO THE MILLENNIUM

COMEDY THEATRE 369 1731 cc 0171 344 4444 "EDWARD FOX's Macmillan a tour de force" E.Std. "CLARE HIGGINS excellent" F.T. In Hugh Whitemore's A LETTER OF RESIGNATION "One of the most literate and powerful plays in the West End." Time Out Mon-Sat Evgs 7.45 Mats Wed 3.00, Sats 4.00

CRITERION 369 1737/344 4444 3RD HILARIOUS YEAR THE REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (abridged) All 37 Plays in 97 Minutes "Hilarious" Times "Gio Mowat" Sunday Times Mats Thur at 3, sat at 5 Sun at 4, Eves at 8pm THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (abridged) Tuesday at 8pm

DOMINION 0171 656 1865/0990 203020/0990 220020/0171-420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 416 6099/0171 312 1997/0800 614 903 DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST THE NEW HIT MUSICAL "AN ENCHANTING EVENING-GENUINELY GLORIOUS" D.Tel "A FEAST OF GOOD FUN" D.Mail New Group Rates-Now Booking Mon-Sat 7.30, Wed & Sat Mats 2.30

DONMAR WAREHOUSE 369 1732 THE FRONT PAGE Ltd Season - 28 Feb Mon-Sat 7.30, Wed & Sat Mats 3

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL 5S cc (Big fee) 24hr 7 days 0171-494 5000/344 4444/420 0000 Grps 494 5454/413 3311/812 8000 MISS SAIGON "THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME" MONON ITS 9TH BREATHTAKING YEAR Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O.

DUCHESS BO/CC 24 hrs 0171 494 5075 494 5398/344 4444 (£1 ser chg) Grps(8+) 0171 494 5454 SCISSOR HAPPY "Shrieks of Laughter" S.Times "more red berrings than a Soviet Trawler" The Guardian Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 5.30 & 8.30, Mat Wed 2.30 Tkts from £7.50 Now Booking Until April '98

FORTUNE BO & CC 0171 836 2238/312 8033/494 5398 NOW IN ITS 9th HIT YEAR ROBERT DAVID DEINIGER PULLAN Susan Hill's THE WOMAN IN BLACK Adapted by Stephen Mallatrat "The most thrilling and chilling play for years" D.Mail Mon-Sat 8 Mats Tue 3 & Sat 4 Running time 2hrs

GARRICK 0171 494 5085/312 1990/ 494 5398 (no bkg fee) Grps 0171 494 5454 Winner of 19 Major Awards The Royal National Theatre Production PIP MILLER AURON FISKE JOHN BARDON JB Priestley's AN INSPECTOR CALLS "Thrilling...Must be seen" D.Mail "Two hours enthralling, visually stunning dinner" D.Tel Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 5.00 & 8.15 Mats Wed 2.30

GIELGUD 494 5085 (No bkg fee) Evgs 7.45 Mats Thur 3/Sat 4 THE PETER HALL COMPANY MARTIN SHAW "A Joy" NY Post Kate O'Mara Simon Ward Michael Denison Dulcie Gray Madeleine Potter Victoria Hasted OSCAR WILDE'S CLASSIC COMEDY AN IDEAL HUSBAND "GREAT AND GLORIOUS" S.Tms

HAYMARKET B.O/cc 930 8800/344 4444 (bkg fee) MAGGIE SMITH EILEEN ATKINS JOHN STANDING in EDWARDS ALBEE'S A DELICATE BALANCE with SIAN THOMAS JAMES LAURENSON ANNETTE CROSBIE directed by ANTHONY PAGE Tue-Sat 8pm, Wed & Sat Mats 3pm

HAYMARKET BO/cc 0171 930 8800 cc 344 4444 (bkg fee) RONA THE SPECTACLE An Icon Returns from 8 April

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 344 4444/420 0000 (fee) Grps 494 5454/413 3311/436 5588 ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Directed by HAROLD PRINCE NOW BKG TO MAY 98 Evgs 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00. Apply to Box Office daily for returns

LONDON PALLADIUM BO/CC 0171 494 5020/344 4444 (£1 1st serv chg) 420 0000 Grps 0171 494 5450/312 8000 JIM DALE RETURNS AS FAGIN OLIVER! 3RD IRREPRESSIBLE YEAR "LIONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE" S.Times Evgs 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 Some good seats avail now for weekday perfs FINAL PERF 21 FEB '98

LONDON PALLADIUM 0171 494 5030/344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 494 5454/413 3321 SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER Previs 21 Apr, Opens 5 May

LYCEUM cc 0171 656 1805 0990 500 800/344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 416 6078 TIM RICE & ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR "Sends shivers racing down the spine" D.Telegraph Evgs 7.45; Mats Wed & Sat 3 (no bkg fee for personal callers at the Lyceum box office 10am-6pm). £15 tickets for students avail Mon-Thu are bookable in advance. Now booking to March 1998. Some seats avail at door Mon - Fri

LYRIC 0171 494 5045 (24hr & cc Bkg fee)/344 4444 (Bkg fee) Groups 0171 494 5454 Royal Shakespeare Company ANTONY SHER in CYRANO DE BERGERAC "The Cyrano of the decade" FT Evgs at 7.30pm Mats Wed & Sat at 2.00pm Limited season ends 14 Feb

NATIONAL THEATRE BO- 0171 928 2252 Grps 0171 620 0741; 24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000. OLIVIER Tom't 7.15 AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE by Henrik Ibsen in a new version by Christopher Hampton. Tomor 7.15 PETER PAN by JM Barrie in a new version by John Caird & Trevor Nunn. LYTTELTON Tom't, Tomor 7.30 THE INVENTION OF LOVE a new play by Tom Stoppard. COTTESLOE Tom't, Tomor 7.30 MUTABILITIE a new play by Frank McGuinness

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079 24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Grps 0171 413 3311/436 5588 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL CATS Evgs 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 Bars open at 6.45 LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE.

PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 0171-344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 413 3311 THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL LES MISERABLES NOW IN ITS 13TH RECORD-BREAKING YEAR Evgs 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Latecomers not admitted until the interval LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733 /344 4444/420 0000 (fee) BEST MUSICAL Olivier/Drama Awards Plays & Players/Ivor Novello Awards WILLY RUSSELL'S BLOOD BROTHERS ...Brings the audience to its feet, and rousing its approval" D.Mail Evgs 7.45 Mats Thurs 3pm Sat 4pm

PICCADILLY 0171 369 1734/0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 (24hrs) ADVENTURES IN MOTION PICTURES' CINDERELLA "Dazzling...startlingly original...a triumphant success" Observer Mon-Sat 7.30, Wed & Sat Mats 2.30 Casting Hotline 0171 434 0194 TICKETS AVAIL NOW "FOR ALL PERFS" LAST WEEK, MUST END SAT

QUEENS BO/cc 0171 494 5040 cc 344 4444, Grps 494 5454/930 6763 BUGSY MALONE THE MESSIEST SHOW IN TOWN! Tue-Sat 7.30 Mats Tue Wed & Sat 2.30 MUST END 17 JAN

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400 First Call 420 0100 cc 344 4444 Groups 420 0200 LAST 2 MONTHS TO SEE BOUBIL & SCHONBERG'S "MUSICAL MASTERPIECE" Int Her Trib MARTIN GUERRE BEST NEW MUSICAL LAURENCE OLIVIER AWARDS MUST CLOSE 28 FEB Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00

PRINCE OF WALES 0171 839 5987 First Call 420 0000 cc 344 4444 GRAMMY AWARD WINNING MUSICAL "Hot from Broadway. Enough energy to electrify a city." D. Mail SMOKEY JOE'S CAFÉ THE SONGS OF LEIBER & STOLLER Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.45 & 8.30, Sat 3pm & 8pm NOW BOOKING TO SEPT 1998

Queens Theatre 0171 494 5040 21 January - 14 March SHOPPING AND F***ING By Mark Ravenhill

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY STRATFORD 01789 295623/0541 541051 Today 1.30 & 7.30 RSTMERCHANT OF VENICE SWANBARTHOLOMEW FAIR TOPGOODNIGHT CHILDREN EVERYWHERE LONDON 0171 638 8891 Today 2.00 & 7.15 BarbicanMERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR PILLITTLE EYOLF

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ST MARTIN'S 0171 836 1443 Evgs 8, Tue 2.45, Sat 5 & 8. AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP 46th YEAR

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WHITEHALL 0171 369 1735 Mon-Thur 9.00 Fri/Sat 7.00 & 9.30 KIM CRISWELL in THE SLOW DRAG 90 cool minutes of HOT jazz "BEST MUSICAL IN THE WEST END" Ned Sherrin LAST 2 WEEKS ENDS 17 JAN

WILTON'S MUSIC HALL off Cable St, E1. BO 0171 488 2252 FIONA SHAW T.S.ELIOT'S THE WASTE LAND 37 minutes at 7.30pm & 8.45pm Extended run Tue 13 - Sat 17 Jan Sun 11 & Sat 17 Jan at 6pm & 7pm. Extra perf Sun 11 Jan at 8.15pm

WYNDHAMS 369 1736/344 4444 BEST COMEDY Evening Standard Awards BEST COMEDY Laurence Olivier Awards "ART" MALCOLM STORRY NIGEL HAVERS RON COOK A new play by Yasmina Reza Trans by Christopher Hampton Eves 8, Mats Wed 3, Sat & Sun 5

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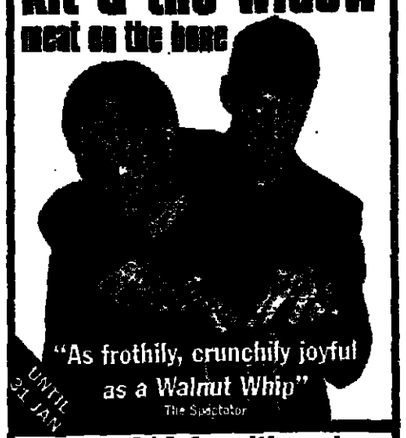
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This journey's end


UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

Stormy weather: the end of Lawrence's career

"I am going away. Moving on." Those words of D. H. Lawrence might serve as an epigraph for the final volume of a tripartite biography which has excelled in quality as well as detail. He was always travelling — he visited more than ten countries in the last eight years of his life in order to enjoy that freedom which is also a form of escape. He travelled to mitigate the sense of worldly failure which he carried with him everywhere, and he travelled to distract himself from the illness which eventually killed him. Perhaps he also sensed that he was "going away" to that country for which no passport is ever needed.

The second volume of this Cambridge biography ended with his departure for Ceylon, but the ancient culture of that country depressed him. He and his wife Frieda then sailed to Australia, which they survived for five months before setting out for an artistic "colony" in New Mexico. Here Lawrence's theoretical fondness for communal living was tested to the limit: in the company of admirers, both male and female, he was always at his worst.

The scenes in Taos were in fact worthy of Feydeau, with Lawrence as the star turn; he would fly into violent rages and attack objects, animals or people indiscriminately. The sight of Frieda with a cigarette drooping from her mouth caused him particular excitement, and he would storm towards her screaming "You bitch!" before she had a chance to stub it out. The novelist famous for his unequalled sensibility could also be the least sensitive of men.

Many people considered him to be insane, but Aldous Huxley was perhaps closer to the truth when he described him as a "passionate, queer, violent" bundle of opposing instincts. He could be savagely impetuous yet strangely dependent, stern and pitiless but often a master of comedy and mimicry. He could go "berserk", as Frieda had cause to notice, but he was also almost pathologically introverted.

Introversion may in turn encourage an excessive sense of self-worth. "I shall be a lord in death," he wrote, "and sway the destinies of the life to come." A close friend noticed that "he really thought he was able to deal death — to destroy and create". In that, of course, he is close to other prophets such as Nietzsche and Carlyle (whom he uncannily resembled in features) and he shared with them a quixotic cocktail of misogyny, racism, anti-Semitism and general misanthropy.

Yet the great achievement of this third volume lies in the biographer's ability to acknowledge the less attractive aspects of Lawrence's personality while still presenting his essential genius and integrity of the man. Professor Ellis provides the fullest and most perspicacious account of the novelist's last years; his insight is compelling and his narrative arresting. He is particularly good at displaying the gentler and more sympathetic aspects of Lawrence's character, in particular that instinctive gaiety which captivated acquaintances. At first he often seemed ill at ease and, according to one contemporary, "rather shabby, slightly coarse"; but his vitality was in the end irresistible. It is possible to see here exactly how, and why, Lawrence became a great writer.

D. H. LAWRENCE
Dying Game, 1922-30
By David Ellis
Cambridge University Press, £35
ISBN 0 521 25421 3

The extraordinary length of the book, however, cannot be overlooked. Lawrence may have considered himself a Messiah, but this third volume alone is almost twice the length of the New Testament. Several recent biographies have drowned their subjects in detail and we may be permitted to ask, as Lawrence did, "what next?"

Lawrence himself, however, is too vital a figure to be wholly subdued by detail. He was always a visionary opposed to the "dominant scientific rationalism" of his period, and Ellis makes an interesting case for him as one of the last writers to inherit "Romantic spontaneity"; the pace at which he composed *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, completing it within six weeks, does indeed suggest that he became inspired in the act of writing itself. But he was also from a Nonconformist background, and his pursuit of holy utterance owes as much to religion as to aesthetics. It is important to remember that he sang Congregational hymns all his life.

Yet visionaries can on occasions be insufferable. The intensity and strangeness of Lawrence's perceptions were accompanied by a wilful blindness towards other people: in the same way his generally stirring and vigorous prose can sometimes slip into a weary rhodomontade of "blood" and "soul" and "race". His fine and very delicate descriptions of landscape, and of animals, are based upon his ability to transpose his own consciousness, entirely without the worrying complexity of other people to be taken into account.

In the last photographs of him he appears tense, distracted, weary — and very ill. He called it flu, or asthma, and even considered it to be a symptom of male menopause; it was only at the very end of his life that he admitted, even to himself, that he was suffering from tuberculosis. "I am so weak," he wrote in his final months, "and something inside me weeps black tears."

He always believed that illness was psychosomatic in origin, and it is at least possible that his own thwarted and distressed nature materially affected his health: why not spit bright red blood when it seemed to him that the whole world conspired to bury his genius? By the spring of 1930, in his 45th year, he had become so emaciated that a bout of pleurisy killed him.

His had been in every sense a hectic and fevered life; but the coalminer's son had somehow printed his genius upon the age. It is often difficult to like, but impossible not to admire him. This third volume of the Cambridge biography also completes a worthy and brave endeavour: D. H. Lawrence will never again be known so completely or so well.

Delicate strokes of genius

Michael Levey welcomes a reappraisal of a forgotten Renaissance master

Handel's operas and Jane Austen's novels are merely two among many cases of rediscovery and re-estimation by this century of great music and great literature of the past. Much more patchy is our record where great painting of the past is concerned. You need only watch *University Challenge* to realise the extensive ignorance of bright, otherwise impressively knowledgeable students when a question arises of Old Master pictures. Carried into chemical terms, their muddles over, say, van Eyck and Van Dyck, might blow up some laboratory.

No bigger gap probably exists today in general appreciation of Italian Renaissance painting than over the work of Antonio Allegri, called — from the small town of his birth — Correggio. As David Ekserdjian observes, his very name may easily be confused with that of Caravaggio — now so more famous, and the irony is that Correggio required no rescuing from centuries of neglect.

For generations after his death in 1534 he was warmly esteemed. To the Baroque age he was a profoundly respected pioneer; to the Rococo more of a fairy godfather. Painters visited Parma to see his frescoes. His religious and mythological paintings were acquired by European galleries. Two recent 20th-century British scholars, A. E. Popham and Cecil Gould, published books now standard on, respectively, his drawing and his paintings. Yet, beyond a specialist circle, this positive Salome of painters, with his marvellously subtle manipulation of bewitching veils of pigment, revealing delicately tinted, delicately textured, almost palpitating flesh, has failed to find or fascinate modern audiences.

Soft touch though he may appear, aesthetically speaking, Correggio is in most other ways hard to deal with. Facts about his life, and something about the circumstances of his commissions, remain in notably short supply. Working exclusively in provincial northern Italy, he seldom had prominent people for his patrons. To a host of scholarly problems has to be added the practical one of adequately appreciating from the ground his frescoes in the cathedral and in the church of San Giovanni Evangelista at Parma. And looming large over all is the general problem of appreciation of a mainly religious artist, who daringly, even disturbingly, gives such physically strong allure to sacred personages like the Virgin and the Infant Christ.

In choosing to write a comprensive monograph on Correggio which should also be accessible to the ordinarily educated reader, David Ekserdjian certainly went for a high-wire act. No less certainly, he has brought off the tricky feat. Not only the works but their patrons and their original frames are investigated. The matter of Correggio's early career is freshly set out. Only the concluding chapter, on Correggio's posthumous influence, seems rather perfunctory. But most of the book is alight with intelligent observations on virtually all aspects of his activity as painter and as draughtsman.

CORREGGIO
By David Ekserdjian
Yale, £45
ISBN 0 300 07299 6

From it emerges the sympathetic figure of a serious and great artist, complex for all this apparent charm, whom we have seriously undervalued. Fortunately, his cause has been much advanced recently by the cleaning of several masterpieces, and something of the impact of those is conveyed in the beautiful colour plates, often of judiciously selected details. With the church frescoes, the plates clarify and enhance appreciation.

David Ekserdjian ends his acknowledgements by hoping that one day his two children may perhaps enjoy reading their father's book. More urgently I end by hoping that it will be read straightaway by numerous adults.


St Hilary of Poitiers from *Correggio's Frescoes in Parma Cathedral* by Carolyn Smyth (Princeton, £50)

City with a chequered history

Ivan Klima

PRAGUE IN BLACK AND GOLD
The History of A City
By Peter Demetz
Allen Lane, £20
ISBN 0 713 99218 2

The title of the book and its subtitle are somewhat misleading. Demetz's voluminous work entails much more than an ordinary book on Prague which deals with the city's history. It is a study not only of Prague itself but of that part of Central Europe of which Prague was, at least for part of the past millennium, the centre point. In his book, Demetz manages to capture the attention of his readers through knowledgeable and brilliantly written portraits of significant characters, some of whom were founders of Prague, others contributed to its flowering — but many of whom simply stayed or worked there such as Jan Hus, Mozart or the first eminent Czech woman author, Božena Němcová.

Hundreds of books have been written about Prague, mainly by Czech or German authors; but many of these historical works suffer from a degree of bias whereby the authors emphasise either the German or Czech elements in the history of the city and country. The strength of Demetz's work is his ability to see the Czech, German and Jewish (and even in certain periods of history, Italian) communities interconnected.

Demetz is a good storyteller with a good sense of important — even if at times secondary — detail, and historical anecdotes liven up his work. Occasionally, Demetz refers briefly and amusingly to books which today are perhaps forgotten but which were in their time significant.

Demetz was born in Prague (he was the son of Czecho-Jewish and German, or more precisely Rhaeto-Romanic parents) and there spent his youth. For the most of his adult life, however, he has lived in the United States. This enables him to distance himself from his subject and helps him to assess more realistically both the significance of events and the importance of individuals in history. At the same time, Demetz is certainly driven by personal interest in choosing his material. It is clear that there are historical epochs and personalities to which he can relate more easily (the Caroline Prague with its protagonist, Charles IV, or Mozart's sojourns in the city). Surprisingly, the shortest section in the book focuses on the 20th century, which is inundated with famous people as well as tragic fates. Demetz fails to show the same intimate knowledge and enthusiasm for modern culture as he shows in the other sections on great writers such as Karel Čapek, or the Czecho-Jewish author Karel Poláček. This means that his book somewhat skims over the entire democratic wing of Czech culture in this century.

The most intimate and perfervid apotheosis of Prague, *Praga Magica*, was written by an Italian Slavist, A. M. Ripellino. Demetz explains that he finds it difficult to relate to Ripellino's emphasis on Prague's alleged mystical atmosphere. I agree with Demetz on this point: the mystical outlook on Prague is an extremely one-sided view, and Prague is only seen in this way from the outside. Unlike Demetz, I do not think that the Czechs themselves favour this view, especially not those of the younger generation who have grown up in a "socialist" Prague of prefabricated blocks of flats.

Demetz's *Prague in Black and Gold* is an exceptional work — and exceptionally reliable, even in its faultless transcription of hundreds of Czech names with all the diacritic marks which are so foreign to the English language. I am convinced that this book will be an important and exciting guide for all who wish to learn more about the famous people and important events in the history of the Czech lands and their capital.

Ivan Klíma's latest novel, The Ultimate Intimacy, is published by Granta Books, priced £12.99.

Review translated from the Czech by Vicki Kolar.

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Country in Western show

Alex Pravda

REBIRTH OF A NATION
An Anatomy of Russia
By John Lloyd
Michael Joseph, £20
ISBN 0 7181 3862 7

ON THE rare occasions Russia makes the front page nowadays, the stories are typically about government reshuffles and stock market fluctuations. We get the impression that the country is becoming more stable and "normal", taking on democratic and capitalist forms. Then Yeltsin is laid low by another "cold" and we are reminded of the fragility of any stabilisation. Russia is replete with tensions: the new rich build tasteless country houses while thousands of army officers remain homeless; primary school teachers make ends meet by begging on the streets of Moscow while politicians send their sons to public schools in the South of England.

The sharp contrasts of Russia in transformation are well captured by John Lloyd, who includes telling details — defence factories converting to consumer production by turning out titanium barbecue sets — in his very broad canvas of political, economic, social and cultural developments over the past five years. The ambitious breadth of coverage means that some of the 29 chapters (which often read like essays) do little more than sketch the contours of change. Whether sketching or going into detail, John Lloyd writes clearly, vigorously and thoughtfully. He combines the revealing turn of phrase of the first-rate correspondent with the insight and understanding that comes from an immersion and engagement in things Russian. How many journalists who covered mainly political and economic affairs in Moscow, as did John Lloyd for the *Financial Times*, would have sufficient feeling for Russia to devote a long concluding section to culture?

More conventionally, the book begins with the political story from the end of perestroika to Yeltsin's re-election in the summer of 1996. This confused drama is presented in a lucid and generally balanced way. The verdict on Gorbachev, as a leader with primitive ideas who did not know where he was going, is rather harsh. Yeltsin is given the benefit of the doubt on critical points such as the showdown with parliament in the autumn of 1993. Overall, though, he is depicted accurately as "a deeply manipulative politician", intent on power rather than any particular set of policies. His success in retaining that power is rightly attributed, at least in part, to having had an opposition, embodied by Zyuganov, which lacked the will to win and the ability to put up credible and convincing alternatives to economic marketisation.

It is when he tells the political story of how the Gaidar Gang pushed through economic reform that John Lloyd is at his most informed and incisive. Gaidar, Chubais and the others sold the cause of radical reform by being confident ("Follow us, we know best") and by appealing to the greed of conservative and centrist managerial and government groups eager to grab the spoils of privatisation.

WHILE the positive economic results of allowing the most ruthless and resourceful to grab the country's wealth are only just beginning to appear, the negative side-effects have long been visible and are well chronicled in the book. Corruption, crime and mafia power have flourished under a weak State which pays scant attention to its own laws and cannot collect taxes or provide basic services.

The weakness of the State is reflected in the strength and autonomy of the regions. It is a pity that John Lloyd does not find room for more than brief accounts of the best-known cases of autonomy since it is developments in the regions, as much as or possibly more than in Moscow, that have shaped the course of Russian transformation.

So far that transformation has produced a hybrid of market and state intervention, pluralism and authoritarianism. There is a curious mix of tradition and modern values, with politicians, such as Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow, hedging their bets by building both spectacular cathedrals and neo-Californian shopping malls. Nor is there a clear sense of a new national identity. Russia, as John Lloyd aptly puts it, is "a country still in waiting — for itself".

He wisely avoids speculating on the future, but the underlying tone of analysis is one of implicit optimism: a market economy and a pluralistic political system can become established, even if the process will be a "long haul". Those who wish to get their bearings for assessing this "long haul" can do no better than start with this excellent anatomy of Russia.

Alex Pravda is Doctor of Russian Studies and a Fellow of St Antony's College, Oxford.


HEADLINE

City's steppe: Church of our Lady before Týn, Prague

هكذا من الأصل

A man with revolting obsessions

D. M. Thomas directs his attention towards the brutal imagination of a giant of the Soviet cinema

EISENSTEIN
A Life in Conflict
By Ronald Bergan
Little, Brown, £22.50
ISBN 0 316 87708 5

Russians visualise the Revolution of 1917 through the filmic genius of Sergei Eisenstein, who imagined it in *October*. Likewise the Revolution of 1905, through *The Battleship Potemkin* — and especially the famous scene of the massacre on the Odessa steps. He created myths, of course: a Soviet joke had it that Eisenstein's storming of the Winter Palace, in 1927, caused more casualties than the original Bolshevik assault; and an elderly porter, sweeping up broken glass, said to Eisenstein: "Your people were much more careful the first time they took the palace." As for the massacre on the Odessa steps, it never actually happened.

The history of 20th-century Russia is so surreal it sometimes seems as if it has been *created* by great directors: Stanislavsky, Meyerhold, Eisenstein — and Stalin. Stalin took a great interest in the lesser directors' work. He had Meyerhold and his wife executed in particularly savage and theatrical ways; Eisenstein he heaped with honours; though he killed one of his films, *Bezhin Meadow*, and, together with Molotov and Zhdanov — what a trio of film critics — held a frightening discussion with him in 1946 about *Ivan the Terrible*. The director noted down the conversation as soon as he got home. Ivan was indeed very cruel, Stalin remarked: "You can depict him as a cruel man but you have to show why he *had* to be cruel ... And when Ivan the Terrible had someone executed, he would spend a long time in repentance and prayer. God was a hindrance to him in this respect. He should have been more decisive." Stalin did not suffer from that defect.

There are opposing views of *Ivan the Terrible*. Some believe it was an immensely courageous exposure of Stalin's cruelty; others, that it was a hymn of praise to his strength. But it is of the essence of myth-makers that they can evoke directly opposite responses. In any case, Eisenstein escaped punishment: he died of a heart attack at the age of 50, in 1948, while he was still trying to "correct" inappropriate features in *Ivan the Terrible, Part II*.

Ronald Bergan has previously written biographies of such Hollywood personalities as Katherine Hepburn, Dustin Hoffman and Anthony Perkins. He struggles to come to grips with the world of Soviet life and art, but clearly brings to the task a love of Eisenstein the director. Of the private life of Eisenstein — where he lived, how he lived, with whom he lived — one gets little impression. He married his assistant Pera Attasheva in 1934. The marriage, coming soon after the criminalising of male homosexuality, was probably designed as protection and remained entirely platonic; nevertheless, it is extraordinary how absent his wife is from this biography.


NOVOSTI
"Remote and aloof": Eisenstein, 1925

With idiosyncratic grammar, Bergan tells us in his prologue that he hopes to have thrown more light on his subject's homosexuality; but the hope is unfulfilled. Eisenstein himself denied he was homosexual. With great honesty he did admit in his memoirs that he was sadistic, and that his "alarming streak of brutality" had influenced the "ocean of brutalities in which my pictures are steeped". As a small boy in Latvia, he was thrashed on his bare buttocks by his mother, and later discovered her hidden books, which included works by de Sade and Sacher-Masoch. Sergei's father was a bullying German-Jewish bureaucrat. The couple split up. From this powerfully noxious mixture came Eisenstein's lifelong obsessions, which he transformed into cold cinematic images of torture and suffering.

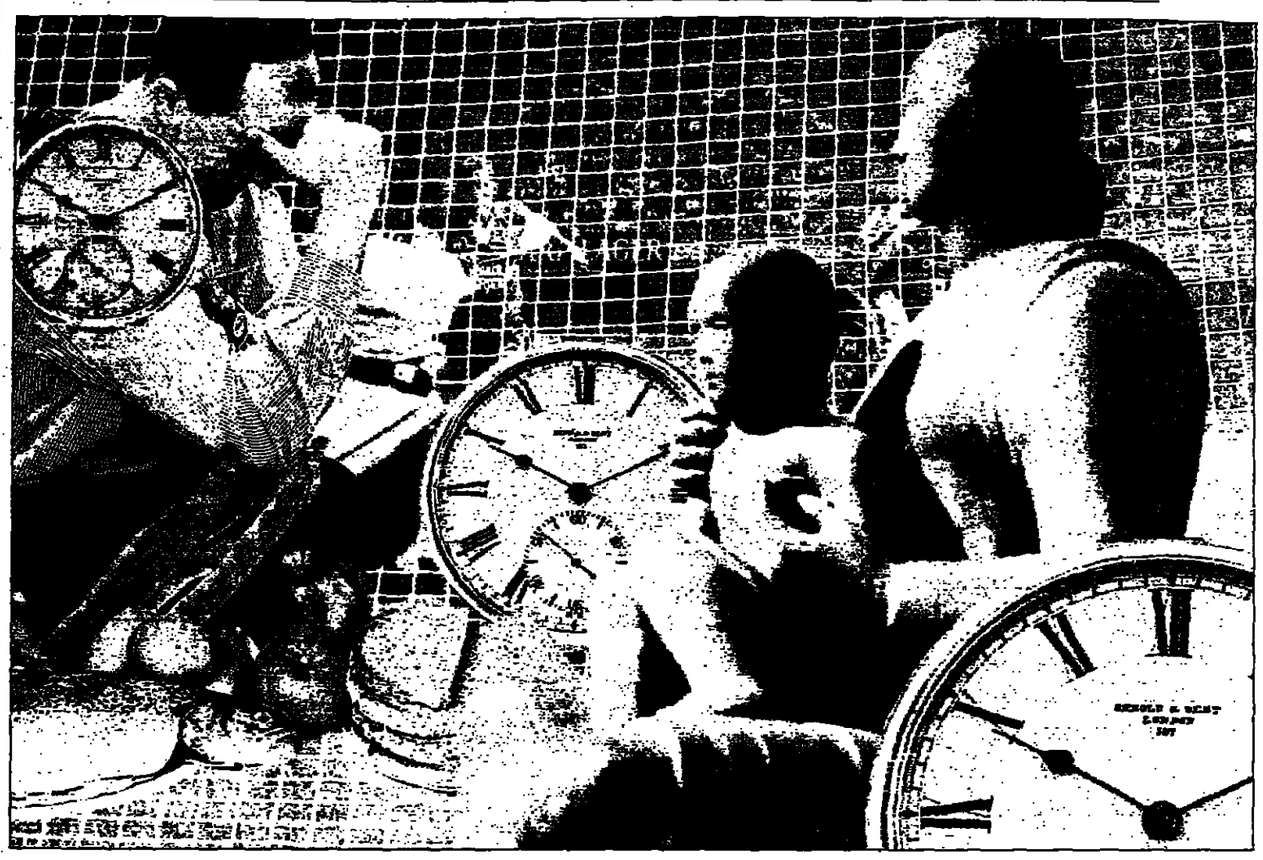
With such a mass of brutal fantasy seething under a brilliant scientific intellect, it is perhaps not surprising that few people felt they really knew him. He was remote and aloof, according to Shostakovich, and didn't need friends. He did need Freud whose work he passionately admired; and became friendly with a Freudian disciple, Dr Hanns Sachs. However, his truest friends evidently became the camera and the cutting-room floor, where he could transpose his dark imagination into a montage of often conflicting images. The violence of the times helped. Revolutions and civil wars are a godsend to sadistic personalities. Perhaps Stalin recognised a matching brutality, and so Eisenstein was never repressed in the euphemistic Soviet sense, though remaining, one suspects, deeply repressed in the Freudian sense.

Fortunately art takes no account of motivation. When, in *October*, a dead white horse plunges — slowly — from the top of an opening drawbridge, it is immaterial that part of its origin may have been a sadistic fantasy. What the viewer sees is a city split in two, and arguably the destruction of an ancient culture through the symbol of the falling horse.

He left only seven completed films. Bergan believes, on the basis of surviving still photos, that *Bezhin Meadow* would have been his greatest masterpiece. He does not quote Shostakovich's view that a film glorifying a boy who denounced his father deserved its oblivion. The biographer does not attempt to deal with the conflicts of aesthetic and ethical judgments raised by the life of almost any major Soviet artist; he does, however, send us back to the masterly films, and his book is a worthwhile introduction to them for a new generation.

D. M. Thomas's biography of Solzhenitsyn will be published next month by Little, Brown.

Mary Ann Sieghart considers the future for democratic parenthood



Just about time to change him

MADONNA AND CHILD
Towards a New Politics of Motherhood
By Melissa Benn
Cape, £12.99
ISBN 0 224 03824

Every modern Western woman, when she bears a child, is forced to justify the decision she subsequently takes. Should she give up work to look after the baby, work only part-time, or return to a full-time job? Nobody asks the father what his plans are.

Melissa Benn's book explores the dilemmas that this creates, questions the value that society puts on motherhood, and wonders why, after three decades of feminism, women are still expected to live their lives on men's terms. They can pursue a career only if they work hours designed for workaholic men with wives at home, while still being expected to run the home and family. No wonder the average full-time working man has 17 hours more leisure time a week than the average full-time working woman. No wonder, as Benn writes, "Women with children talk about time all the time ... Time torments them: time is a treasure."

Yet, when they do struggle to reconcile the demands of home and work, they often feel that neither is done justice: the children see too little of them, and their employers still complain. They find themselves "trying to live in two worlds and feeling never fully present in either".

Some mothers respond to this conflict by going back to the home. But nor is this always an easy option. "All the old satisfactions [of work] are gone: a life of mobility, however limited, of decisions that concretely project into the future rather than merely repeat the actions of the present, the comforts of strangers, money, the pleasure of home as a place of refuge and return." And society puts far less value today on the stay-at-home mother, while at the same time castigating working mothers for rearing a generation of ill-disciplined, value-free children.

It is this contradiction that is one of the most perceptive observations of Benn's book. In the world of work, there is a hierarchy that runs from full-time men and women at the top down to the part-time women working only a handful of hours — the dinner ladies and cleaners — at the bottom, who earn the least and have the lowest status. Yet according to traditional family values, this hierarchy should be reversed. For it is these women who are keeping families together and supervising their offspring.

And what about the moral imperatives of fatherhood? A recent survey of 1,000 eight to 15-year-olds found that 80 per cent would have liked to spend more time with their fathers. Yet men are never characterised as "selfish" or "irresponsible" for spending so long at work that they barely see their children.

They may not acknowledge it, but successful men who work ten, 12 or 15 hours a day are part of the problem. They may expect their wives to make sacrifices, but would not countenance doing so themselves. "There is still an unwritten rule," writes Benn, "that a man's time is his to do what he wishes with it ... Any new public conversation would have to explore how much of this behaviour is a form of parental irresponsibility."

Many men fear, quite understandably, that women's equality is a zero-sum game: every step forward for women is a step backwards for men. That need not be so. Sharing home life more equally brings its own rewards, particularly in better relationships with children. A really close bond is formed not by playing football with them, but by cooking their tea, meeting their needs. If "domestic democracy", as Benn terms it, took hold, it would not only make mothers' lives more bearable; it might even enrich those of fathers too.

Dispatches from hell

IN December 1937, soldiers of the Imperial Japanese Army began an orgy of killing and raping in the Chinese city of Nanking. Within two weeks upwards of 300,000 people were dead, well over half the population that had not yet fled. Iris Chang, author of *The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II* (Basic Books, £18, ISBN 0 465 06835 9) estimates that if all the killed had held hands, they would have stretched for 200 miles. The number killed exceeds those 300,000 executed by the Spanish Inquisition, the dead at Dresden, and the Hiroshima and Nagasaki victims: 20,000 to 80,000 women were raped.

This horrific episode, one of the worst war crimes ever, and barely known — except by every Chinese — is skated over in Japanese textbooks. Nor has the Japanese Government properly apologised for Nanking or meaningfully for the war as a whole.

Iris Chang, a Chinese-American freelance writer, has written the first powerful and comprehensive book on what happened in December 1937. Its ghastly detail is drawn from diaries, letters, contemporary newspaper articles, and transcripts of the war crimes trials where what happened in Nanking was fully exposed.

Chang asks and answers fundamental questions. Why did the Japanese Army do it? Not because they are more cruel than other people, she insists, but because prewar Japanese children were conditioned to total obedience. The troops practised killing civilians during their advance on Nanking and were under orders to kill every last PoW.

Why is the massacre so badly known? Because within a few years of the end of the war, as Chang says, it suited the American and Chinese Governments, keen to get on with postwar Tokyo, to stay mute, although there is a group of Chinese academics who maintain a compendious archive on Nanking. Many Japanese still refuse to admit the Rape happened at all.

The least likely hero of Nanking was John Rabe, a German industrialist in the city, and a devout Nazi. As Chang shows, his exploits put Oskar Schindler in the shade. Flashing his swastika armband at awe-struck Japanese soldiers, Rabe drove them off the girls they were raping. He saved so many Chinese from death and rape that when the citizens of Nanking heard he was freezing and starving in postwar Germany, they sent him thousands of dollars and regular food parcels.

Iris Chang has ably filled in a big historical hole about a colossal atrocity. The Japanese terrorised in Nanking in accordance with policy, and after the orgy the publicly mild Emperor Hirohito, who was aware in detail of what had happened there, congratulated his troops — one of whose commanders was the Emperor's uncle.

I have only one problem with Ms Chang's book. The choice of the word "holocaust". What happened in Nanking was ghastly enough and needs no echo of another — yet more ghastly — sort of horror to wring our hearts.

JONATHAN MIRSKY

Who do you think you are? Einstein?

Lisa Jardine

MRS EINSTEIN
By Anna McGrail
Doubleday, £12.99
ISBN 0 385 40913 3

In January 1902, Albert Einstein's future wife Mileva Marie, a fellow student at the Swiss Federal Polytechnic in Zurich, gave birth to a girl in her home town of Novi Sad in southern Hungary. To avoid scandal, the pregnancy was kept a secret from even the couple's closest friends, and little Lieserl ws given up for adoption. Einstein and Mileva eventually married in 1903 and produced two sons. They divorced in 1918, and Einstein married his cousin Elsa. Nothing more is known about Einstein's daughter.

Anna McGrail takes the story of Lieserl Einstein — a secret so jealously guarded that it surfaced only in 1986 — as the *starting point* for her new novel. Lieserl grows up with an astonishing gift for mathematics, and a passionate hatred for her father, for his treatment of her mother and herself.

When it dawns on the ten-year-old Lieserl that her father neither loves her nor cares about her, she sets about planning her revenge against him. Given her mathematical ability — an ability she insists she has inherited from her mother — she determines to haunt her father's scientific career. She sets herself to master cutting-edge physics, the science of gravity and light. She will match each of Einstein's mathematical proofs with one of her own which goes beyond its conclusions, or undermines its findings. Repeatedly thwarted by the deprived and disadvantaged circumstances of her life, she eventually hits on an uglier plan. She will use Einstein's own great equation, $E=mc^2$, to design a nuclear bomb. The weapon will be based on the scientific theories of a world-famous pacifist, and Einstein himself will be forced to recognise this fact by the daughter he resolutely refused to acknowledge.


CHRISTIE'S
Albert Einstein and Mileva Maric in Prague, 1911

Lieserl's plan takes her on a picaresque journey across Europe and on to America, in the company of her lifelong friend Maja. They survive a sequence of bizarre adventures which range from the comical to the tragic. McGrail's fictional tale is sharply written, with enough mathematical detail woven in to make her Lieserl a convincing figure. In Maja she creates an ingenious counterbalance for Lieserl, a mysteriously effective manipulator of the two women's fortunes, whose ageless, chameleon beauty is magically modified to seduce and open doors for them wherever they go.

Magic realism reminiscent of Angela Carter sits particularly successfully alongside a plot that is driven by the intricacies and twists and turns of 20th-century science. This is an entertaining, readable novel. There is a lightness of touch in McGrail's championing of a forgotten daughter and her ill-treated mother which avoids solemnity, is consistently entertaining, and yet incidentally makes serious points. It is a tribute to *Mrs Einstein* that I now want to know much more about the circumstances surrounding Einstein's personal life, and the part played in his early scientific work by his physicist wife, Mileva Maric.

'John Mortimer's fine romp of a novel'
Sunday Times



'Mortimer tells his story with his customary wit and élan; the prose is littered with sharp little truths that you recognise with delight'
Literary Review

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Foundations not long laid down

SHORT STORY ROUND-UP

ACCORDING to Peter Ho Davies in *The Ugliest House in the World* (Granta, £9.99, ISBN 1 86207 127 6) there used to be a law in Wales by which if you built a house in a day and slept under its roof for a night, you gained an acre of land. "The house had to be stone just to make things harder. That's why the ugliest house is so ugly." Davies is a natural storyteller; the house law may not be fact, but it makes for a fine fiction. For Williams, a young doctor, the ramshackle building in North Wales is the edge of his senile father's property and the place Williams meets his lover. — relationships as fragile as the house itself. "I lay on my back and looked up at the rough walls above me and thought of the people who built them. I wondered how they felt sleeping beneath them on that first night with all that precariously balanced weight around them. Did they have confidence in their balancing act?" Davies is at his best writing about the countries of his parents — China in *Buoyancy* ("They used to show me a large earthenware jar in one corner of the garden and tell me that was where my great uncle drowned himself") and Wales in both the title story and *A Union*, a heartbreaking account of the death of a mining town. Davies's first book of stories lacks unifying themes but contains some powerful work.

Bear and his Daughter (Bloomsbury, £15.99, ISBN 0 7475 3528 0) is another first book of stories, although the novelist Robert Stone makes a grizzled deb. Written between novels over 30 years, these seven stories are remarkable for their unity. Stone's lead characters are all junkies, obsessives and addicts; rage, alcohol, and crystal meth galvanise these stories with a hard, bitter energy. In *Helping*, Stone shows an acute understanding of addiction as the alcoholic Elliot rages at his wife: "He was thinking that if it had not been for her he might not have survived. There could be no forgiveness for that." In the title story, poet Will Smart drives across Midwest America to meet his daughter, a confrontation as gruesome as anything out of Greek tragedy. At their worst, Stone's stories are trip diaries — repetitive, meandering and self-indulgent. At best, they have the driving rage of Stone's characters.

D. J. Taylor is another established writer publishing a first book of short fiction: *After Bathing at Baxter's* (Vintage, £6.99, ISBN 0 09 977921 8) contains 18 stories, seven of which have been broadcast on radio. Taylor writes about dreams of escape, and the inability of people to make those dreams come true — like Fuchs the American pornographer in *Dreams of Leaving*, who fantasises about the Cotswolds, the Norfolk Broads ("Hell, Fuchs thought, what a title for a picture spread"). Taylor's vocabulary can be affected ("exophthalmic bikers", "ataxic movements", "*monotonous thraldom*"), his constructions clumsy, with "roadside hotels full of teenagers balling their girlfriends and glassy-eyed English tourists". But Taylor writes with a light touch, and his descriptions of white trash America and backwoods England are full of deft irony and laughter.

TOBIAS HILL

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CHANGING TIMES

Former chef swaps kitchen for place among cross-country elite

Change of menu gets Anderson cooking

David Powell meets a veteran heading for Kenya to enhance an emerging reputation

As a former chef and restaurant owner, Keith Anderson is accustomed to tasty food and a comfortable home. Next week, though, he is off to Kenya, to live for three weeks in a wooden hut with no running water, no electricity, and bowls of *ugali* for lunch and dinner. "Tasteless stuff," he said, "like thick wallpaper paste."

Anderson knows what to expect. He has been there for a month already this winter and will keep going back for as long as he thinks it will help to advance his athletics career. What could be more beneficial than to train at altitude with world champions and world record-holders, such as Daniel Komen, Wilson Boit Kipketer, and Moses Kiptanui?

This may seem desirable schooling for any aspiring young British distance-runner, given Kenya's unparalleled record of achievement, but Anderson is hardly fresh-faced. Grey-haired and 40, he is now officially a veteran. He was 38 before giving up his job to turn professional.

Even Linford Christie, Britain's greybeard of the track, retired before his 38th birthday. Anderson, though, is still moving towards his peak. At the Co Durham International cross country last weekend, he beat Britain's four fastest 1,500 metres runners of 1997 in the middle-distance race.

Anderson attributes his improvement to the Kenya experience. "It is starting to pay dividends," he said. "I am learning how to train damn hard." Talk about a mature student.

It has been a difficult task for Anderson to get across the message that he has become a full-time professional. Now, out of his Durham run, he is hopeful that an offer to run the Flora London Marathon in April may arise.

The Durham meeting director had refused to pay Anderson an appearance fee but agreed a payment-by-results deal. Any prize-money he won would be doubled. The director, apparently, thought the Bingley Harrier would get nowhere near the places. He finished second, pocketing £400 instead of £200.

"A serious recreational runner," was how Brendan Foster described Anderson while commentating on *Grandstand*. "Serious recreational runner? On 130 miles a week?" Anderson said.

He had his revenge when Foster, heavier now than in his world record heyday, asked him to confirm for viewers that he had taken up running to lose weight. "Probably you should get out and join me," came his cheeky reply.

In 1996, it seemed that Anderson's professional career would be short-lived. Unable to train after contracting glandular fever, he looked to other employment. "I thought my running had finished, so I bought a restaurant," he recalled. Six months later, he sold it. Running was back on the menu.

"Restaurant work is so pressurised," Anderson said. "I was in the kitchen from eight in the morning to twelve at night. I would go walking between shifts. I realised that, if I turned my back on running, the chance of a lifetime would be gone. I wake up every morning and pinch myself." Which, in Kenya, means pinching himself at 5.30am. First run of the day, 6am.

While Peter Elliott, the 1988 Olympic silver-medal winner at 1,500 metres, in his new position as national coach for middle distance, has noticed a preoccupation with lottery grants among Britain's young internationals, Anderson is from the other side of the street.

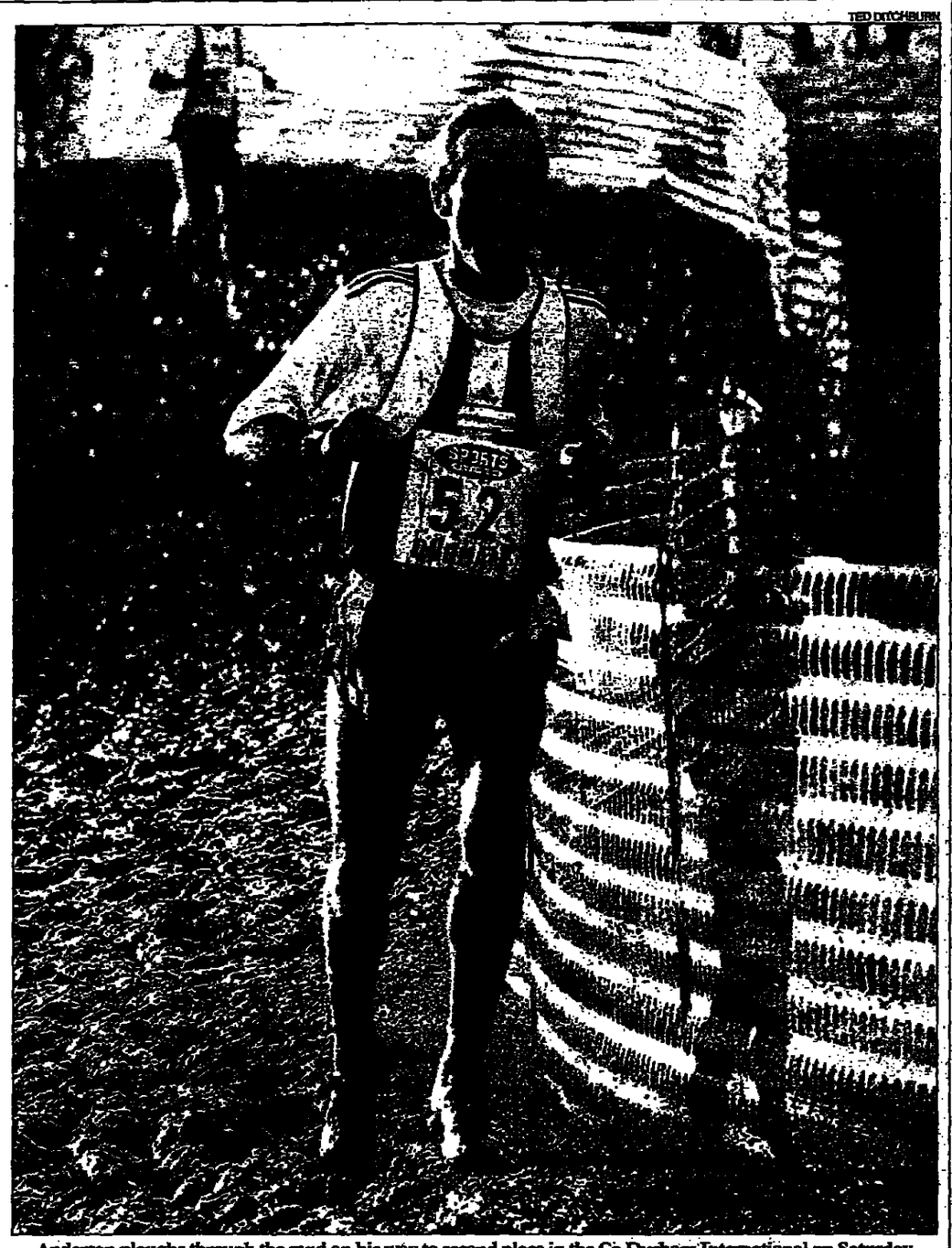
"I have never relied on handouts," he said. "I have to live on my wits sometimes, but that is part of the buzz. Over here we say 'lack of facilities, lack of funding'. Rubbish. The Kenyans just work extremely hard. It is all down to desire."

Anderson's attitude is partly a product of his late entry into athletics. "I was 30, 13½ stone, and had not taken any exercise since school," he recalled. Then his wife, Gill, and a few friends went on a sponsored slim.

"I was there at the weigh-in and, for a laugh, I got on the scales," Anderson added. "I was a bit shocked. I started running a mile a day and got into fell running."

Within four years he was British fell-running champion and back down to his schoolboy ten stone. Quite a story to tell his Kenyan friends over a bowl of *ugali*.

TED DITCHBURN



Anderson ploughs through the mud on his way to second place in the Co Durham International on Saturday

All-star line-up helps Pascoe's bid for control

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

IF BRITISH athletics is to have a new beginning, the Bupa indoor grand prix in Birmingham on February 15 is no bad place to start. API, the sports marketing and sponsorship company, one of three bidders seeking to take over the commercial running of the sport in Britain, clearly recognises the fact.

API hopes to steal a march on its rivals by putting on a "blockbuster" meeting that will impress those charged with the task of deciding where the commercial contract goes. The meeting, part of the Ricoh indoor grand prix tour, will be at the National Indoor Arena, the first international track promotion in Britain since the British Athletic Federation (BAF) went into administration in October.

Yesterday it was announced that Haile Gebrselassie and Jonathan Edwards would be the leading attractions at the meeting, the former attempting the world record at 2,000 metres, the latter competing in a slimmed-down, fast-action, field event. With the BAF no longer functioning, API is overseeing the organisation of the meeting while the administrators and UK Athletics 98, an interim body funded by the UK Sports Council, attempts to set the sport back on its feet in time for the summer.

API is headed by Alan Pascoe, the 1974 Commonwealth and European 400 metres hurdles champion, who has held the marketing rights to British athletics since 1985. Of the Bupa meeting, Jon Ridgeon, API's spokesman, said: "Services will be provided free and API are underwriting all the costs.

"The reason for that is hopefully to develop a long-term relationship with the sport and demonstrate to the administrators that API are the company to go forward with. It is an act of goodwill to keep the sport on its feet and to ensure that everything remains in place for, hopefully, securing a contract for the future."

The decision on the contract will fall jointly to the administrators and a creditors' committee, to be appointed at a meeting of creditors on January 23. UK Athletics 98 plays only a consultative part in the decision. The administrators' proposals to creditors will be sent out tomorrow.

In contrast to the majority of outdoor British meetings promoted by the BAF, the Ricoh indoor tour event has been a marked success. Last year, it climbed to No 2 in the International Amateur Athletic Federation rankings of indoor meetings worldwide.

For Ian Stewart, the BAF's head of events since he succeeded the disgraced



Gebrselassie leads grand prix field

Andy Norman in 1994, this will be his last show. He sees no place for himself in the British governing body's future structure and the 1975 world cross-country champion is keen to cross the line with a kick finish.

"I want to make sure that, whoever takes it over, has something to work from, that it gives the sport a springboard to a brilliant summer, and helps to get all the adverse publicity out of the way," Stewart said.

A four-man triple jump should confirm to the incoming commercial leaders that, for non-championship athletics to appeal on television in the present climate, some of the dress needs to be removed.

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

This was a good example of technique from the 1997 Macallan International Pairs.

Dealer East — North-South game — IMPs

	♠65 ♥AQ87 ♦KJ ♣Q8543		
♠Q1093 ♥J10 ♦AQ972 ♣92		♠7 ♥953 ♦10864 ♣AK1087	
	♠AKJ842 ♥K642 ♦53 ♣J		

W	N	E	S
—	—	Pass	1 S
Pass	2 C	Pass	2 H
Pass	4 H	All Pass	

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: jack of hearts

The above sequence was typical. Because of his good spade holding, West usually led trumps, although, as it happens, a club lead works better. Often when you have length in the declarer's first suit, both your partner and dummy will be short, and so your partner may be able to overruff when declarer attempts to establish the suit.

The three unsuccessful declarers took the ace and queen of hearts and then played two top spades. East ruffed, cashed a high club and played a diamond to West's ace. Now a further club from West forced declarer to ruff, and he could no longer establish and cash his spades.

Five declarers succeeded. They each won the first heart in dummy, and then played a spade to the ace. Now, after playing a second heart to dummy, they were able to play a second spade towards the king. It did East no good to ruff, so declarer won the king of spades and ruffed a spade. If East discards, declarer draws trumps, concedes a spade and comes to a diamond trick at the finish. If East overruffs and continues as above, declarer ruffs the second club, ruffs a spade in the dummy and has a trump left to reach his hand and the established spades.

The key play was leading the second spade towards the closed hand. That catered for East holding a singleton.

☐ The Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship 1998 will be played at The White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NW1 from Wednesday January 21 to Friday 23. Tickets and information from the Macallan Box Office, 31 Queens Road, Mortlake, London SW14 8PH. Tel: 0181-878 5844.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Karpov ahead

Anatoly Karpov, the defending Fide (World Chess Federation) champion, has moved ahead in his six-game final match against grandmaster Viswanathan Anand, of India. Karpov scored a win as Black in game four and now leads by 2½-1½, needing just one point from the last two games to retain his title.

Anand's play was uncharacteristically feeble. Karpov's twentieth move was a fine tactical shot and by the thirty-eighth move, Anand was suffering in an endgame where Karpov held all the trumps. Anand's thirty-ninth move was a desperate attempt to delay the loss of his pawn on h5 but it was only his forty-ninth move, clearly in a state of demoralisation, that granted Black two far-flung outside passed pawns that sealed White's fate.

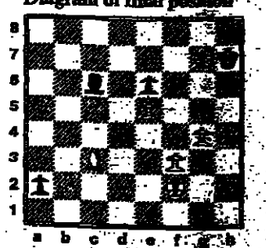
White: Viswanathan Anand
Black: Anatoly Karpov
Fide world championship
Lausanne, January 1998

Caro-Kann Defence

1	e4	c6
2	d4	d5
3	exd5	cxd5
4	c4	Nf6
5	Nc3	e6
6	Nf3	Be7
7	cxd5	Nxd5
8	Bd3	Nc6
9	0-0	0-0
10	Re1	Bf6
11	Be4	Nce7
12	h4	Nf5
13	Qd3	Nxe3
14	bxe3	h6
15	h5	Nd6
16	Ne5	Nxe4
17	Qxe4	Bxe5
18	dxe5	f5
19	Qe2	Bd7
20	Rd1	Bb5
21	Qf3	Qa8
22	Bf4	Rc8
23	Rd4	Re4
24	Rad1	Qf7
25	Rxc4	Bxc4
26	a3	Rc8
27	Rd4	Kh7
28	Bd2	Bd5
29	Qh3	b5
30	a4	bxa4
31	Rxa4	Rc4
32	Rxc4	Bxc4
33	Qh4	Bb5
34	c4	Be8
35	c5	Qd7
36	Bc3	Qd3
37	Qd4	Qxd4
38	Bxd4	e5
39	c6	Bxc6
40	f3	f4
41	Bb2	Be8
42	Bc1	a4
43	Bd4	a3
44	Be3	Bd5
45	Kf2	Be8
46	Bd4	Bc6
47	Bc3	a2
48	g3	h5
49	g4	h4

White resigns

Diagram of final position



Sadler wins

Matthew Sadler has completed his dominance of the field at Hastings by winning the tournament with one round to spare. The full scores, after eight rounds, are: Sadler 6½; Relange 5; Rozentalis and Tkachiev 4½; Nunn and Plaskett 4; Rausis, Wand and Hebden 3; McShane 2½.

By Philip Howard

SHAKUHACHI
a. Marinated beef
b. Ritual dishonour
c. A flute

WEHMUT
a. The German auxiliary army
b. Sadness
c. A signpost

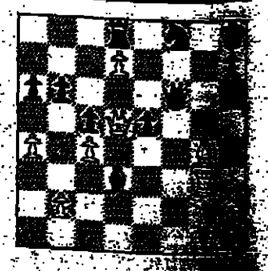
SENNEGRASS
a. Arctic sedge
b. An elderly police informer
c. A household steward

TOENADERING
a. Rapprochement
b. Foot fetishism
c. Pigeon-toed

Answers on page 40

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Nei — Petrosian, USSR 1960. The key feature of this position appears to be the passed pawn on d7. However, the finish came from a different direction. What did White play?



Solution on page 40

RACING

Meale to raise Coral takeover in Parliament

By Chris McGrath

DISQUIET about the proposed takeover of Coral by Ladbrokes will claim the attention of the new session of Parliament, according to the MP who yesterday vowed to orchestrate a vigorous campaign against the deal.

Alan Meale will post an Early Day Motion next week, objecting to the £375.5 million deal — which Margaret Beckett, as Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, can refer to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC). Meale, long an energetic champion of racing's interests in Westminster, is confident that it will secure sufficient support to merit a debate.

He is also trying to arrange a delegation of industry leaders to stress their concerns to Beckett in person. At the same time, he accused those same figures of a supine attitude to the sale of Coral — which he considers as much an opportunity missed, as a cause for anxiety should Ladbrokes be confirmed as buyers.

Meale feels that the takeover, which is being examined by the Office of Fair Trading, presents "great dangers to the industry and to betting shop customers". He said: "Prices would be controlled more easily and there would be less choice and variation in the industry — making it more difficult for the people who are the lifeblood of racing to get the best out of it. Thirty five per cent of the market is much too large a share."

Lord Wakeham and Tristram Ricketts, respectively chairman and chief executive of the British Horseracing Board (BHB), are among those being contacted by Meale; likewise Peter Jones, chairman of the Tote. "I will have the meeting with Margaret Beckett anyway," Meale said. "But if anyone in the industry really does care and has got something to contribute, I would like them to come with me. I have already been in touch with her office to let them know that I'm formulating an objection, but I would also like her to meet prominent people from the industry who can tell her that this is a serious matter."



Meale: priority

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary and another racing enthusiast, has already expressed strong reservations about the deal. Meale, who is Parliamentary aide to John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, believes that his Early Day Motion will attract 100 signatures — which number tends to ensure that a short debate, if applied for, would be accepted. "People have quickly realised the dangers in this takeover," he said, at the same time urging everyone with an interest in racing — emotional or financial — to elucidate those dangers to their MPs. He added that a further avenue for Parliamentary agitation was available in Home Office questions.

If he is clearly alarmed by the implications of the Ladbrokes takeover, however, Meale sounds scarcely less exasperated by what he perceives to be the docility of the industry's leadership. He suspects the BHB of being distracted by internal bickering and questions the adequacy of its membership. "The sadness of all this is how little has been said by the racing establishment," he said. "When are they going to get their act together? They need to stop squabbling, to realise the dangers inherent in this amalgamation — and to start doing what they were put there for: represent racing's interests."

Senior figures at Ladbrokes are assumed to have had their card marked by the OFT, with regard to the likelihood of the deal crossing monopoly thresholds — 128 Coral shops, all sited near existing branches of Ladbrokes, having been sold to the Tote. Meale, however, argues that the Tote, rather than facilitate the deal, should have been rivals for it. He believes that the Government could be made to see the long-term advantages if ways could be found to secure a leading off-course role for the Tote. For now, however, his priority is to thwart the Ladbrokes deal.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Supremism
(2.50 Catterick)

Di Haine's runners always merit respect at Catterick and Supremism should be a value proposition at the Yorkshire track today after a promising introduction over hurdles at Warwick last month.

Next best: Ham N'Eggs
(2.20 Catterick)

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Top Cees attempts to add The Ladbroke hurdle at Leopardstown on Saturday to his list of Flat race victories

Swan to ride Commanche Court

By Chris McGrath

WHEN a young jockey is scaling the ladder, there are times when the next rung suddenly snaps. Consider the case of Garrett Cotter, who was promised the ride on Commanche Court, favourite for The Ladbroke hurdle at Leopardstown on Saturday, on condition that neither Richard Dunwoody nor Tony McCoy was available.

First Dunwoody, and then McCoy, regretted that they would be otherwise engaged at Sandown on Saturday. Commanche Court will duly be ridden by — Charlie Swan.

Cotter has made such strides as a claiming rider in Ireland this season that his 27 winners place him fourth in the jockeys' table, but its summit seemingly remains the private preserve of Swan.

The multiple champion was not part of the equation in the first instance because Ted Walsh, who saddled Commanche Court to win the Triumph Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival last year, assumed that his services would be required by Aidan O'Brien.

"I was meant to ride Toast The Spreece," Swan confirmed yesterday. "But the ground has gone against him. He still runs, so I'm very grateful to Aidan and the owners for letting me off. Commanche Court has an outstanding chance, and will go on the ground. I've been second in the Ladbroke, for my father, and was supposed to ride Atone in 1994, but took something else — I just hope I've got it right this time."

If even Swan has yet to win the race, nobody knows the feeling better than the sponsor's own customers. A fiendish challenge at the best of times, it seems to have confounded many of them already with Fishin Joella, backed from 33-1 to as low as 11-1 over recent days, now a doubtful runner after a training setback. This has failed to deter further interest in one of the British raiders, the versatile Top Cees, Barry Fenton's mount, who is now quoted 12-1 from 14-1 with William Hill.

WET weather continues to take its toll of race meetings. The fixture at Market Rasen today has been lost, and tomorrow's card at Exeter has also been called off. The fate of tomorrow's other turf programme, at Towcester, will be decided at an 8.30am inspection today. However, the prospects for Sandown on Saturday have improved. Andrew Cooper, the clerk of the course, said yesterday: "Prospects are encouraging, the track is as good as it has been all week." The outlook is gloomier for Saturday's two other turf cards. Warwick and Haydock stage inspections this afternoon.

SQUASH

LionHerts pay for not fielding best team

By Colin McQuillan

TEAM managers in the National Super League and the SRA National Squash League may be reassessing their selection processes after watching the first fixtures of the new year subtly influenced by the unexpected introduction of forgotten stars.

LionHerts lost 3-0 away to the Welsh club, Dunraven Maesteg, who fielded the two leading Welshmen, Alex Gough and David Evans, with the British champion, Mark Cairns, separating them at second string. LionHerts could have fielded almost the entire England squad that has won the last two world team championships, but sent instead their Australian player, Dan Jenson, backed by Mark Chaloner and Julien Wellings.

Ellis Lingfield lost 2-1 away to Rowlands Manchester, who slipped the former national champion, Phil Whitlock, into their third-string position and then gleefully watched him defeat Tim Garner, the England No 10, 9-7, 10-8, 6-9, 10-8 in 56 minutes behind a second-string win for Nick Taylor over Stephen Meads and a narrow first-string defeat of Derek Ryan by Paul Johnson.

Simon Taylor began his National League career a decade ago in a successful Leicester squad but has been absent from the domestic scene for the last few years, coaching in North America. This may explain why young John Dale was surprised by the standard of competition he found ranged against him at second string in the National League match at Edgbaston between Armourcolor Priory and Irwin Mitchell Hallamshire.

Jenny Tranfield took the fifth-string women's point for Hallamshire, beating Tracey Shenton, ranked one above her at No 8 in England, and the visitors might have gone on to overall victory but for Taylor's 76-minute 5-9, 4-9, 9-8, 9-8, 9-4 determined winning reaction to a racket blow from Dale that is thought to have broken his nose early in the rubber.

Elsewhere in the National League, Potters Bar regained the lead in group A with a 4-1 win over Ilkley.

Results, page 40

CATTERICK

THUNDERER

12.50 Whatdidyousay
1.20 Feels Like Gold
1.50 Baher
2.20 Ham N'Eggs
2.50 Rusk
3.20 Winter Belle
3.50 Queensway

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.20 WINTER BELLE.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Timekeeper's speed rating.

GOING: SOFT SIS

12.50 LEEDS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,248: 2m 3f) (8 runners)

1 /20/602 RUSTY REEL 9 (S) (R Hilley) W G M Turner 8-12-0 .... A Thornton 107
2 1613-36 BRAMBLES WAY 65 (BF,F,G,S) (N Jones) Mrs M Reveley 9-11-10 .... P Niven 114
3 -21134F FATEHALKHAIR 13 (BF,F) (B Chicken) B Ellison 6-11-8 .... C McCormack (5) 113
4 33141-4 IFALLELSEFAILS 9 (F,G,S) (Mrs B Lungo) L Lungo 10-11-7 .... W Dowling (7) 112
5 0/46B-4 GYMCRAK TIGER 153 (B,D,F,G) (Gymcrak RC) G Holmes 8-10-6 .... R Garritty [115]
6 03P/03P WHATDIDYOUSAY 13 (Mrs D Bousfield) B Bousfield 10-10-0 .... B Storey 102
7 0603-24 PERPETUAL LIGHT 22 (BF) (Four Point Plus) J Quinn 5-10-0 .... R McGrath (3) 113
8 0331/3- VILPRANO 580 (BF,F) (Vilprano Partnership) D Moffatt 7-10-0 .... R Studholme (7) –

Long handicap: Whatdidyousay 9-12, Perpetual Light 9-11, Vilprano 9-5.

BETTING: 11-4 Fatehalkhair, 5-1 Rusty Reel, 6-1 Perpetual Light, 13-2 Whatdidyousay, 7-1 Ifallelsefails, Gymcrak Tiger, 8-1 Brambles Way, Vilprano.

1997: MEETING ABANDONED — FROST

FORM FOCUS Rusty Reel 1¼l 2nd of 6 to Lord Rullah in handicap hurdle at Carlisle (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Brambles Way 30l 6th of 10 to Auburn Boy in claiming hurdle at Warwick (2m, good to firm). Fatehalkhair fell in handicap hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 1f, soft); previously 16l last of 4 to Star Rage in handicap hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good to firm). Ifallelsefails 28l 4th of 5 to Once More For Luck in handicap hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, soft); previously beat Sandrill 3l in 19-runner selling handicap hurdle at Perth (2m 4f 110yd, good). Gymcrak Tiger 5¾l 4th of 11 to Irie Mon in handicap hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, good to firm). Whatdidyousay pulled up in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, soft); previously 6l 3rd of 19 to Stonesby in novice hurdle at Catterick (2m 3f, good). Perpetual Light 15l 4th of 10 to Point Duty in novice handicap hurdle at Catterick (2m, good). Vilprano 29l 3rd of 5 to Blooming Spring in novice hurdle at Perth (3m 110yd, good to firm).

FATEHALKHAIR can make amends for falling at the last with matters in hand 13 days ago

1.20 WAKEFIELD NOVICES CHASE (£2,941: 3m 1f 110yd) (14 runners)

1 264-221 PRIME EXAMPLE 7 (CD,S) (R Ogden) M Todhunter 7-11-12 .... R Dunwoody 106
2 0 ALL THE GAS 21 (Lady Sarah Barry) Mrs A Naughton 7-11-5 .... Mr T J Barry (7) –
3 6-UP6 APACHE RAIDER 9 (Mrs E Kettlewell) F Murphy 6-11-5 .... E Callaghan 90
4 3F00/U2 CALLERNOY 13 (S) (Exors late R Lamb) D Lamb 8-11-5 .... J Burke 101
5 83P3-0F COURT JOKER 13 (G) (J Kennedy) H Alexander 6-11-5 .... R McGrath (3) 65
6 2032/P DAVID'S WAY 13 (G) (D Lever) M Pell 9-11-5 .... D Bentley –
7 0022/33 FEELS LIKE GOLD 12 (S) (Independent Twine Co) G Richards 10-11-5 .... A Dobbin 116
8 2P4-2P5 FLAT TOP 9 (S) (Major M Watson) M W Easterby 7-11-5 .... A Thornton [118]
9 0P413-4 HARFDECENT 48 (F) (A Knowles) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-5 .... P Niven 81
10 65-PP00 JUST FOR ME 7 (J Moore) J A Moore 9-11-5 .... M H Naughton (5) 84
11 /10/4-4 LORD FORTUNE 53 (F) (T Hemmings) M Hammond 8-11-5 .... R Garritty –
12 2P/0/4 SILLARS STALKER 13 (F,G,S) (Sillars Civil Eng) Mrs A Swinbank 10-11-5 .... J Supple 72
13 U2/23 TORUS SPA 27 (J O'Donnell) F Murphy 7-11-5 .... B Harding –
14 P6-4 SPRINGLEA TOWER 7 (G Nixon) R Nixon 5-10-7 .... C McCormack (5) 64

BETTING: 11-4 Feels Like Gold, 3-1 Prime Example, 13-2 Harfdecent, 7-1 Flat Top, 8-1 Callernoy, 10-1 Lord Fortune, 12-1 Torus Spa, 14-1 others.

FORM FOCUS Prime Example beat Allerbank 7l in 15-runner maiden chase at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft) with Springlea Tower (7lb better off) 32l 4th and Just For Me (7lb better off) beaten a distance 10th. All The Gas 33l 7th of 15 to Take Cover in novice hurdle at Catterick (2m 3f, good to soft). Apache Raider 37l 6th of 12 to Celestial Choir in novice chase at Carlisle (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Callernoy 3l 2nd of 13 to Chipped Out in novice chase at Sedgefield (2m 5f, soft) with Sillars Stalker (levels) 27l 4th, Apache Raider (levels) pulled up and David's Way (levels) pulled up. Court Joker fell in novice chase at Wetherby (2m, soft). Feels Like Gold 1¼l 3rd of 7 to Share Options in novice chase at Wetherby (3m 1f, soft). Flat Top 30l 5th of 7 to Ingletonian in novice handicap chase at Carlisle (2m, soft). Harfdecent 33l 4th of 10 to Dawn Mission in novice chase at Sedgefield (2m 5f, good). Lord Fortune beaten a distance 4th of 9 to Celtic Giant in novice chase at Ayr (2m 5f 110yd, good). Torus Spa beaten a distance 3rd of 4 to Cash Flow in novice chase at Doncaster (3m, good) with Apache Raider (levels) unseated rider.

FEELS LIKE GOLD has less to do than in a good race at Wetherby last time

1.50 BRADFORD SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,996: 2m) (12 runners)

1 5324113 BAHER 8 (D,G,S) (S Clark) S Clark 9-11-13 .... Miss R Clark (5) [102]
2 4/2-225 SCARABEN 21 (CD,G,S) (F Storey) F Storey 10-11-9 .... B Storey 96
3 2-55406 KIERCHEM 8 (CD,F,G) (Mrs M Hunter) C Grant 7-10-9 .... C McCormack (5) 101
4 S5/P53/ DRUMDONNA 823 (Mrs M Beaumont) P Beaumont 8-10-1 .... R Supple –
5 502 IMPALA 22 (Mrs C Scott) W G M Turner 4-10-0 .... J Power (7) 84
6 240P0-R CANONBIEBOTHERED 31 (A McGlasey) M Pell 7-10-0 .... D Bentley –
7 0F0-002 ONE STOP 8 (M Brennan) M Barnes 5-10-0 .... S Taylor (5) 76
8 000P SAGEBRUSH ROLLER 13 (A Collins) J J O'Neill 10-10-0 .... R Dunwoody 89
9 3FP ANOTHER PICEA 13 (C Bosomworth) A J Lockwood 5-10-0 .... S Ryan (5) 60
10 /000F0F HYA PRIM 23 (B) (N Chamberlain) N Chamberlain 7-10-0 .... W Dwan 61
11 0PP-0 POLAR WIND 13 (N Waggott) N Waggott 9-10-0 .... M Foster 54
12 PPU-PP4 REGAL JEST 13 (B Murray) B Murray 8-10-0 .... R Studholme (7) 70

Long handicap: Impala 9-13, Canonbiebothered 9-9, One Stop 9-8, Sagebrush Roller 9-7, Another Picea 9-5, Hya Prim 9-4, Polar Wind 9-2, Regal Jest 8-13.

BETTING: 3-1 Scaraben, 7-2 Baher, 4-1 Impala, 9-2 One Stop, 7-1 Kierchem, 10-1 Drumdonna, Sagebrush Roller, 12-1 others.

FORM FOCUS Scaraben 23l 5th of 7 to Fen Terrier in handicap hurdle at Catterick (2m, good). Drumdonna 14l 3rd of 11 to Eight Sharp in selling hurdle at Perth (2m 110yd, soft). Impala ½l 2nd of 13 to Zabadie in novice selling hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good). One Stop 4l 2nd of 7 to Opera Fan in selling handicap hurdle at Catterick (2m, good) with Baher (8lb better off) 10l 3rd and Kierchem (levels) 55l 6th. Polar Wind 75l 7th of 10 to Forzair in selling handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m, soft) with Sagebrush Roller (levels) pulled up. Regal Jest 31l 4th of 10 to Baher (19lb worse off) in novice claiming hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, heavy).

KIERCHEM, a course and distance winner, is a tentative choice in a tricky contest

2.20 BARNSLEY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,921: 2m) (7 runners)

1 2428-41 HAM N'EGGS 13 (D,F,G,S) (M H O G Racing) M Hammond 7-12-0 .... R Garritty 99
2 000640- FOX SPARROW 152F (D,S) (B Todd) B Mactaggart 8-10-8 .... B Storey –
3 00604/ OUT BY NIGHT 629 (A Coupland) G M Moore 7-10-7 .... N Bentley –
4 2454-P3 MOSS PAGEANT 8 (G) (Mrs F Walton) F Walton 8-10-1 .... T Reed 113
5 643-FPP DANTES AMOUR 9 (Wetherby Racing Bureau 27) E Alston 7-10-0 .... L Cummins (5) –
6 3PP-82 DRAGONS BAY 8 (P Doran) Mrs M Reveley 9-10-0 .... N Smith [115]
7 0PP-00 BALLYKISSANGEL 30 (G Allison) N Bycroft 5-10-0 .... R Supple –

Long handicap: Dragons Bay 9-12, Ballykissangel 8-6.

BETTING: 7-4 Ham N'Eggs, 2-1 Dragons Bay, 7-2 Moss Pageant, 10-1 Out By Night, 14-1 others.

FORM FOCUS Ham N'Eggs beat Jolly Heart 19l in 4-runner novice chase at Wetherby (2m, soft). Fox Sparrow 63l last of 7 to Rachael's Owen in handicap hurdle at Perth (2m 110yd, good to firm). Out By Night 11l 4th of 9 to Cittadino in novice hurdle at Ayr (2m, good to soft). Moss Pageant 2½l 3rd of 10 to Arthur Bee in maiden chase at Catterick (2m, good). Dragons Bay neck 2nd of 6 to Corbleu in novice handicap chase at Catterick (2m 3f, good).

HAM N'EGGS narrowly gets the vote over Dragons Bay

2.50 HALIFAX NOVICES HURDLE (£2,318: 2m) (10 runners)

1 042-121 JESSICA ONE 47 (C,G) (W Swanson) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-7 .... P Niven 95
2 534 ALPINE HIDEAWAY 13 (Easterby Trailers) M W Easterby 5-11-5 .... A Thornton 102
3 5 ARCHIE-T 22 (Mrs J Plummer) P Beaumont 5-11-5 .... R Supple –
4 0-0 CRAIGIE BOY 13 (B Rayner) N Bycroft 8-11-5 .... O Pears 69
5 033 DOCTOR BRAVIOUS 8 (Mrs G Purcell-Brydon) B Ellison 5-11-5 .... E Callaghan [108]
6 P-PS INYOUGOBLUE 13 (Lady Sarah Barry) H Alexander 6-11-5 .... Mr T J Barry (7) 90
7 0 RUSK 13 (Mrs J Conway) T Easterby 5-11-5 .... L Wyer 70
8 0 SQUARE DEAL 19 (P Flanagan) S Bowring 7-11-5 .... T Dascombe –
9 STRAFFAN GOLD 99F (P Savill) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-7 .... G Lee –
10 5 SUPREMISM 24 (Lady Helen Smith) Mrs D Haine 4-10-7 .... J F Titley 105

BETTING: 9-4 Jessica One, 3-1 Doctor Bravious, 5-1 Alpine Hideaway, 6-1 Rusk, 7-1 Supremism, 14-1 Inyougoblue, 16-1 Straffan Gold, 25-1 others.

FORM FOCUS Jessica One beat Carol Again 6l in 15-runner mares maiden hurdle at Catterick (2m 3f, good). Alpine Hideaway 33l 4th of 15 to Justin Mac in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, soft) with Inyougoblue (levels) 34l 5th, Rusk (levels) 57l 10th and Craigie Boy (levels) 63l 11th. Archie-T 63l 5th of 10 to Once More For Luck in selling hurdle at Catterick (2m 3f, good). Doctor Bravious 7¼l 3rd of 15 to Rawi in maiden hurdle at Catterick (2m, good). Square Deal 87l 10th of 15 to Polar Prospect in novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good to soft). Supremism 18l 5th of 20 to Virtuoso in 3yo novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, good).

ALPINE HIDEAWAY has shown enough to suggest he can win a race of this nature

3.20 ILKLEY HANDICAP CHASE (£2,707: 3m 1f 110yd) (5 runners)

1 F20-264 NAUGHTY FUTURE 13 (BF,D,G,S) (A Collins) J J O'Neill 9-11-13 .... R Dunwoody 112
2 UU22-51 WINTER BELLE 8 (CD,G,S) (Mrs M Bird) J Johnson 10-11-10 (7ex) .... A Dobbin [118]
3 1234-32 SEEKING GOLD 13 (D,F,G) (Gilly) J Barclay 9-11-8 .... B Storey 107
4 2046-65 HEAVENLY CITIZEN 9 (CD,F,S) (J Gledson) J Gledson 10-11-6 .... C McCormack (5) 96
5 0/03-31 SIRERIC 13 (S) (C Bell) S Bell 8-11-0 .... N Smith 115

BETTING: 2-1 Sireric, 5-2 Winter Belle, 7-2 Naughty Future, 4-1 Seeking Gold, 12-1 Heavenly Citizen.

FORM FOCUS Winter Belle beat Sheelin Lad 28l in 6-runner handicap chase at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good). Seeking Gold 3l 2nd of 7 to Judicious Captain in handicap chase at Ayr (3m 1f, soft) with Naughty Future (levels) 11l 4th. Heavenly Citizen beaten a distance 5th of 9 to Committed Schedule in handicap chase at Carlisle (3m 2f, soft). Sireric beat Tudor Fellow 15l in 10-runner handicap chase at Sedgefield (3m 3f, soft).

WINTER BELLE can follow up a recent course and distance win at the expense of Naughty Future

3.50 HUDDERSFIELD STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,193: 2m) (10 runners)

1 1-2 QUEENSWAY 26 (BF,D,S) (G Shiel) J Fitzgerald 6-11-11 .... F Leahy (5) –
2 ADVANCED STEEL (P Burling) R Woodhouse 5-11-4 .... E Callaghan –
3 BIROTEX BOY (C Grant) C Grant 5-11-4 .... C McCormack (5) –
4 0 COLMARANN 13 (K Fisher) Mrs S Smith 6-10-13 .... Mr J Saville (7) –
5 DARK SALLY (N Chamberlain) N Chamberlain 5-10-13 .... B Harding –
6 4 KAILAN SCAMP 46 (Mrs G Spink) J Parkes 5-10-13 .... S Ryan (5) –
7 0-0 SWIFTLY SUPREME 59 (G Davidson) T Cuthbert 5-10-13 .... Mr T Davidson (7) –
8 00 WOODY SCUD 22 (Mrs J Pickering) J Pickering 6-10-13 .... O Burrows (5) –
9 NOSHINANNIKIN (S Curtis) M W Easterby 4-10-7 .... P Midgley (3) –
10 MARTHA'S MOONSTONE (Mrs L Tinsley) T Easterby 4-10-2 .... R Thornton –

BETTING: 4-6 Queensway, 11-2 Kailan Scamp, 13-2 Martha's Moonstone, 8-1 Noshinannikin, 12-1 others.

FORM FOCUS Queensway 4l 2nd of 18 to Sweep Gently in NH flat race at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good). Colmarann 36l 11th of 18 to Running Water in NH flat race at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to soft). Kailan Scamp 9¼l 4th of 11 to Over The Beck in NH flat race at Catterick (2m, good). Swiftly Supreme beaten a distance 9th of 10 to Kings Measure in NH flat race at Carlisle (2m 1f, good). Woody Scud 36l 7th of 15 to Bassey in NH flat race at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft).

QUEENSWAY does not have the smart Sweep Gently to contend with this time

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Catterick: 1.50 Hya Prim.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
T Easterby	8	22	36.4	P Niven	24	77	31.2
Mrs M Reveley	18	79	22.8	R Thornton	3	19	15.8
J Fitzgerald	8	41	19.5	R Garritty	11	74	14.9
Mrs A Swinbank	4	21	19.0	E Callaghan	8	59	13.6
L Lungo	7	43	16.3	R Supple	7	54	13.0
J Quinn	6	37	16.2	A Dobbin	11	90	12.2

RACELINE COMMENTARY RESULTS 0930 168+ CATTERICK 101 201 LINGFIELD 102 202 G'HOUNDS 162 262 FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

Maguire hopeful

ADRIAN MAGUIRE is hopeful of a return to the saddle next month. The jockey has received a positive assessment from surgeon Michael Foy and begins physiotherapy on his broken arm towards the end of next week.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

12.30 Palisander. 1.00 Invocation. 1.30 Anokato. 2.00 Tango. 2.30 Wing Of A Prayer. 3.00 SADA (nap). 3.30 Temptress.

GOING: STANDARD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

12.30 TALISMAN HANDICAP (Div I: £1,903: 1m 2f) (9 runners)

101 (7) 500- ROYAL CEILIDH 19J (F,G) D Williams 5-9-11 .... P P Murphy (3) 66
102 (5) 410- PALISANDER 37 (CD) S Dow 4-9-7 .... S Sanders 70
103 (1) 350- BON GUEST 97 (G) Miss B Sanders 4-9-5 .... A Clark 61
104 (2) 450- THOUGHTFUL KATE 96 B Palling 4-9-2 .... T Sprake 62
105 (8) 152- JUBILEE SCHOLAR 20 (B,CD) G L Moore 5-8-11 .... F Norton 80
106 (3) 330- ZORRO 37 (D,F) R Flower 4-8-7 .... Dane O'Neill 59
107 (4) 23-1 BADRINATH 7 (CD) H Collingridge 4-8-7 (6ex) .... J Quinn 83
108 (6) 000- PARONOMASIA 21 J L Harris 6-8-2 .... A McCarthy (7) 64
109 (9) 000- MISLEMANI 20 (F,G) A Newcombe 8-7-10 .... Martin Dwyer 59

9-4 Badrinath, 11-4 Jubilee Scholar, 4-1 Palisander, 8-1 Zorro, 10-1 Royal Ceilidh, Bon Guest, 12-1 Mislemani, 16-1 others.

1.00 RED GAUNTLET SELLING STAKES (£1,956: 7f) (14)

201 (9) 400- ARNIE 38J (S) J Poulton 6-9-6 .... Martin Dwyer 32
202 (8) 000- BLUE CALVINE 101 W G M Turner 4-9-6 .... D McGaffin (7) 38
203 (5) 050- GUNNERS GLORY 20J (V,F) Mrs L Stubbs 4-9-6 .... Dane O'Neill 53
204 (13) 50-0 HAWAII STORM 2 (B,CD,F,S) D Ffrench Davis 10-9-6 .... P P Murphy (3) 53
205 (7) 306- INVOCATION 27 (CD,F) G L Moore 11-9-6 .... A Clark 70
206 (11) 500- LANCASHIRE LEGEND 37 (CD) S Dow 5-9-6 .... S Sanders 71
207 (2) 000- LIFT BOY 20 (CD,F,G) G L Moore 9-9-6 .... Candy Morris 62
208 (4) 003- MUMKIN 37 (B,G) Mrs L Stubbs 4-9-6 .... S Whitworth 50
209 (12) 00-6 OUR SHADEE 5 (V,C,D,F,G) K Ivory 8-9-6 .... C Scally 55
210 (3) 0-03 PAINT IT BLACK 2 (D,F,G) D Nicholls 5-9-6 .... A Nicholls (7) 58
211 (10) 062- ROCKY WATERS 37 (B,C,D,G) M Usher 9-9-6 .... P McCabe (3) 51
212 (1) 00-0 WADERS DREAM 5 (F) Pat Mitchell 9-9-6 .... Amanda Sanders 38
213 (14) 000- INTO DEBT 29 (E,CD) J Poulton 5-9-1 .... A McCarthy (7) 40
214 (6) 020- TAEL OF SILVER 44 (D,F,G) A Bailey 6-9-1 .... D Wright 37

5-1 Paint It Black, 11-2 Tael Of Silver, 6-1 Invocation, 7-1 Lancashire Legend, Lift Boy, 8-1 Mumkin, Our Shadee, Rocky Waters, 10-1 others.

1.30 GUY MANNERING CLAIMING STAKES (£2,779: 5f) (6)

301 (6) 210- PALACEGATE JACK 21 (B,CD,F,G,S) J Berry 7-9-3 .... C Lowther (3) 83
302 (5) 630- ANOKATO 29 (B,CD,F) K Ivory 4-8-13 .... Martin Dwyer 85
303 (1) 31-3 FRIENDLY BRAVE 5 (B,BF,CD,S) Miss G Kelleway 8-8-13 .... S Sanders 77
304 (2) 00-0 PLEIN GAZ 7 (G) J Bridger 5-8-11 .... J Quinn 61
305 (3) 043- MISTER RAIDER 17 (B,CD,F) E Wheeler 6-8-7 .... A Daly (3) 78
306 (4) 006- GI LA HIGH 26 (CD) M Madgwick 5-8-2 .... J Bramhill 84

5-2 Mister Raider, 3-1 Palacegate Jack, 7-2 Friendly Brave, 4-1 Anokato, 13-2 Gi La High, 16-1 Plein Gaz.

2.00 QUENTIN DURWARD MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,518: 1m) (11)

401 (2) 232- APPYABO 27 M Quinn 9-0 .... A Whelan (3) 70
402 (9) BIN FAA J Scargill 9-0 .... J Quinn –
403 (8) 532- FLIGHT 20 S Dow 9-0 .... W Ryan 76
404 (11) 60-0 KANTONE 5 R Ingram 9-0 .... A McGlone –
405 (10) 0- ROGER ROSS 59 R Flower 9-0 .... S Drowne 43
406 (3) 000- SAMMY'S SHUFFLE 20 R Flower 9-0 .... Martin Dwyer 44
407 (1) 6- SHIRA-A 89 M Polglase 9-0 .... M Rimmer –
408 (7) TANGO R Hannon 9-0 .... Dane O'Neill –
409 (6) SECRET HARMONY V Soane 8-9 .... R Perham –
410 (5) SNOW AND ICE H Candy 8-9 .... N Adams –
411 (4) WINTER RIVAL G L Moore 8-9 .... A Clark –

7-4 Flight, 7-2 Appyabo, 11-2 Tango, 8-1 Shira-a, Snow And Ice, Winter Rival, 12-1 Secret Harmony, 16-1 others.

2.30 TALISMAN HANDICAP (Div II: £1,893: 1m 2f) (8)

501 (5) 524- SWEET SUPPOSIN 29 (V,CD) C Dwyer 7-9-10 .... S Sanders 71
502 (2) 500- PRINCESS OF HEARTS 92 (B,F) G L Moore 4-9-7 .... Candy Morris 60
503 (8) 006- MR SPEAKER 30J (F) G Bravery 5-9-4 .... M Tebbutt 73
504 (3) 033- BILLADDIE 20 (C) R Flower 5-9-0 .... Dane O'Neill 68
505 (7) 004- WING OF A PRAYER 12J P Mitchell 4-8-8 .... A Clark 48
506 (4) 604- MULTI FRANCHISE 17 (CD,F) R Flower 5-8-7 .... Martin Dwyer 71
507 (1) 000- FOUR OF SPADES 29 (B,C,F) K Burke 7-8-4 .... Amanda Sanders 58
508 (6) 030- INKWELL 20 G L Moore 4-8-1 .... F Norton 60

9-4 Sweet Supposin, 9-2 Princess Of Hearts, Billaddie, 11-2 Multi Franchise, 8-1 Mr Speaker, Wing of A Prayer, Four Of Spades, Inkwell

3.00 WAVERLEY HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,388: 6f) (5)

601 (4) 11-2 JUST ANOTHER TIME 6 (BF,CD) J Berry 9-7 .... C Lowther (3) 85
602 (2) 430- SADA 33 C Dwyer 9-7 .... S Sanders 86
603 (1) 403- FLAME TOWER 79 R Hannon 9-4 .... P Dobbs (7) 69
604 (5) 006- TREBLE TERM 33 P Makin 8-13 .... A Clark 50
605 (3) 06-0 LEGAL LARK 7 (D,F) P Howling 8-11 .... J Quinn 67

15-8 Just Another Time, 9-4 Sada, 3-1 Flame Tower, 6-1 Treble Term, 10-1 Legal Lark.

3.30 IVANHOE HANDICAP (£2,285: 1m 5f) (9)

1 (5) 000- HAL HOO YAROOM 54J (F,G) J Jenkins 5-10-0 .... A Clark 40
2 (4) 262- TARRY 17 (F,G,S) Miss G Kelleway 5-9-12 .... S Sanders 63
3 (2) 230- COH SHO NO 93 (BF,F) S Dow 5-9-4 .... Dane O'Neill 62
4 (8) 06-1 RONQUISTA D'OR 6 (B) G Ham 4-9-1 (6ex) .... S Drowne 82
5 (7) 360- TEMPTRESS 27 (F,S) J L Harris 5-8-13 .... J Quinn 64
6 (3) 56-3 BLUE LAMP 7 R Ingram 4-8-8 .... A McGlone 57
7 (9) 000- ROYAL CIRCUS 52 (CD,F,S) P Hiatt 9-8-1 .... A Daly (3) 68
8 (6) 00-3 COASTGUARDS HERO 2 M Usher 5-7-12 .... J Marshall 48
9 (1) 000- EXECUTIVE OFFICER 17 (B) R Flower 5-7-12 .... Martin Dwyer 47

2-1 Ronquista D'Or, 3-1 Tarry, 5-1 Coh Sho No, 6-1 Temptress, 7-1 Blue Lamp, 8-1 Royal Circus, 12-1 Hal Hoo Yaroom, 14-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: V Soane, 5 winners from 24 runners, 20.8%; J Berry, 30 from 146, 20.5%; D Nicholls, 10 from 52, 19.2%; H Candy, 5 from 29, 17.2%; Miss G Kelleway, 34 from 199, 17.1%.

JOCKEYS: P Dobbs, 4 winners from 13 rides, 30.8%; C Lowther, 7 from 38, 18.4%; C Scally, 9 from 52, 17.3%; W Ryan, 24 from 159, 15.1%; A McCarthy, 5 from 35, 14.3%.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S TWO MEETINGS

Musselburgh

Going: good to soft, soft in places

12.40 (2m hdle) 1, GOSPEL SONG (B Harding, 5-1); 2, Manful (J Callaghan, 13-8 fav); 3, Badge Of Fame (N Williamson, 11-4). ALSO RAN: 9 Brother Of Iris, 14 Feel A Line (5th), 20 Trojan Risk, 25 Really Useful, 50 Monte Cresta (4th), Willie Horne, 100 Indian Viceroy, Silver Hover (6th), 300 Dark Midnight, The Vale. 13 ran. ¾l, hd, 16l, 8l, 17l. A Whillans at Hawick. Tote: £6.50; £1.10, £1.10, £2.80. DF: £5.10. Trio: £6.90. CSF: £11.57.

1.10 (2m hdle) 1, STAKIS CASINOS BOY (E Callaghan, 6-4 fav); 2, Recruitment (R Burns, 8-1); 3, Master Hyde (S Melrose, 9-4). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Chili Boom (5th), 20 Hutches Lady (4th), 25 Ciserone, Jilly Beveled, Prophits Pride (6th). 8 ran. 7l, 1¼l, 6l, 30l, 16l. B Ellison at Consett. Tote: £2.20; £1.30, £2.20, £1.50. DF: £10.00. CSF: £12.91.

1.40 (3m ch) 1, FERN LEADER (N Williamson, 7-4 fav); 2, Cottstown Boy (Mr M Bradburne, 5-1); 3, Up For Ransome (J Supple, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Seldom But Severe, 7 War Whoop (6th), 20 Tony's Feelings (4th), 33 Mullins (5th). 7 ran. NR: The Shy Padre. ¾l, 13l, 16l, 20l, 7l. C Grant at Billingham. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £4.50. DF: £6.60. CSF: £6.72. Tricast: £25.68.

2.10 (3m hdle) 1, SPRUNG RHYTHM (N Williamson, 6-5 fav, Richard Evans's nap); 2, What's Your Story (A Thornton, 14-1); 3, Young Steven (Mr M Bradburne, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 11-8 Major's Law, 33 Bardaros (5th), 150 Water Font (4th). 6 ran. 9l, 7l, 15l, dist. K Bailey at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £2.10; £1.00, £9.90. DF: £5.30. CSF: £13.55.

2.40 (2m 4f hdle) 1, SALEM BEACH (M Moloney, 7-2); 2, Hobbs Choice (J Callaghan, 6-4 fav); 3, Monkey Wench (N Horrocks, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 9 Little Miss Rocker (5th), 12 She's A Winner (4th), 20 Celtic Comma. 6 ran. Nk, 1l, 15l, dist. Martin Todhunter at Ulverston. Tote: £6.40; £1.90, £1.10. DF: £5.60. CSF: £7.45.

3.10 (2m ch) 1, ARCTIC SANDY (B Storey, 16-1); 2, Singing Sand (A Dobbin, 11-8 jt-fav); 3, Monyman (R Garritty, 11-8 jt-fav). ALSO RAN: 4 Montrave (4th). 4 ran. 12l, 6l, 7l. J Oliver at Hawick. Tote: £13.80. DF: £7.30. CSF: £35.64.

3.40 (2m flat) 1, SIKANDER A AZAM (N Williamson, 3-1); 2, Flutterby Lady (R Supple, 20-1); 3, Woodfield Gale (P Niven, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 7-4 fav Enn Alley (5th), 15-2 Mirasioux (6th), 25 Scotman Lad, Scrapman, 40 Sunset Flash (4th), 50 Trinity. 9 ran. 1¾l, 1¼l, sh hd, sh hd, 3½l. C Grant at Billingham. Tote: £4.10; £1.10, £2.10, £2.10. DF: £19.90. Trio: £20.20. CSF: £54.63.

Placepot: £168.90. Quadpot: £110.10.

Wolverhampton

Going: standard

1.00 (1m 100yd) 1, MONCHANIA (S Righton, 5-1); 2, Run Or Bust (A McGlone, 5-1); 3, Honey Storm (A Mackay, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 4 fav Osmal (5th), 6 Balaclava (4th), Netta Rufina, 8 Suellajoy, 9 Sally's Dancer, 12 Fairy Fingers, 14 Priddy Green, Sea Fig (6th), 25 Karadeni, 33 Landrun. 13 ran. 11l, ¾l, 1¼l, 1¾l, hd. J Spearing at Alcester. Tote: £4.80; £1.90, £1.40, £3.60. DF: £13.30. Trio: £80.30. CSF: £35.08.

1.30 (1m 100yd) 1, BAWSIAN (T Williams, 2-1); 2, Prince Ashleigh (L Charnock, 5-1); 3, Boulevard Rouge (D McKeown, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 11-10 fav Primary Colours (4th), 8 Branston Berry (5th). 5 ran. 3l, 2½l, 10l, 1¾l. J Eyre at Thirsk. Tote: £3.20; £1.10, £2.40. DF: £22.40. CSF: £11.68.

2.00 (1m 1f 79yd) 1, ANONYM (O Pears, 7-4 fav); 2, Bongo (Dean McKeown, 7-2); 3, Loch Style (F Lynch, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Head Gardener (4th), 6 Holloway Melody (6th), 7 Cambridge Blue (5th), 20 One Shot, 25 Mirken Heights. 8 ran. 3½l, 5l, 2½l, 3l, nk. J Eyre at Thirsk. Tote: £2.70; £1.90, £1.40, £2.50. DF: £6.00. CSF: £8.03.

2.30 (5f) 1, IMP EXPRESS (Dale Gibson, 10-1); 2, Aljaz (A McCarthy, 9-2); 3, Hitsons Executive (J Quinn, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 4 fav Sue Me (4th), 9-2 Nobalino, 7 Mary Jane, 10 Bowcliffe Grange, Sunset Harbour (5th), Swynford Dream, 12 Spotted Eagle, 33 General Equation (6th), Glimmering Hope. 12 ran. NR: Silk Cottage. 1¾l, hd, ¾l, nk, 3l. P Felgate at Lisburn. Tote: £12.70; £4.00, £1.80, £1.50. DF: £23.90. Trio: £65.70. CSF: £55.20. Tricast: £325.90.

3.00 (1m 4f) 1, SWAN HUNTER (G Milligan, 11-4 fav); 2, Mr Fortywinks (T Williams, 3-1); 3, Alsahib (C Lowther, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 6 Top Jem, 8 Break The Rules (4th), Premier Generation (6th), 10 Ambidextrous (5th), 14 Arctic Thunder, Quiet Venture, 33 Moonspell. 10 ran. 11l, 8l, ¾l, 2½l, 4l. D Cosgrove at Newmarket. Tote: £3.80; £1.80, £1.10, £1.70. DF: £10.70. Trio: £8.30. CSF: £12.58. Tricast: £27.64.

3.30 (1m 1f 79yd) 1, ETHBAAT (A Clark, 9-2); 2, Cee-N-K (J Fanning, evens fav); 3, Soldier Cove (D Sweeney, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 6 Don't Worry Mike (6th), North Ardar (5th), 20 Sakharov (4th), 33 Subaroo Sam, 50 Dangerous Waters. 8 ran. 1½l, ¾l, 6l, sh hd. 11 M Heaton-Ellis at Wroughton. Tote: £4.10; £1.10, £1.40, £1.90. DF: £4.20. CSF: £8.97.

4.00 (6f) 1, SEANCHAI (Mr J Crowley, 33-1); 2, Elite Hope (Mr R O'Ryan, 15-8 fav); 3, Young Ben (Mrs C Williams, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 3 Pageboy (5th), 4 Takhlid (4th), 11-2 Hi Mujtahid, 9 Never Think Twice, 16 Sir Tasker, 20 Lennox Lewis (6th), 33 Slightly Oliver. 10 ran. Nk, 2l, 1½l, 1¼l, nk. P Felgate at Lisburn. Tote: £67.40; £7.70, £1.50, £3.60. DF: £182.00. Trio: not won (pool of £541.50 carried forward to Catterick 1.50 today). CSF: £90.50. Tricast: £1,289.77. Elite Hope finished first, but after a stewards' inquiry was placed second.

4.30 (6f) 1, TIME TO FLY (Miss A Elsey, 7-2); 2, Mike's Double (Miss Diana Jones, 4-1); 3, Little Ibnr (Miss E Ramsden, 10-1). ALSO RAN: evens fav Redoubtable (4th), 7 Rives Ensign (5th), 14 Chemcast (6th), Sheraton Girl, 25 Copperbeech, Tommy Tempest. 9 ran. 3½l, 5l, 2¾l, 2¼l, 3l. B Murray at Malton. Tote: £7.40; £1.20, £1.80, £2.50. DF: £9.10. Trio: £28.10. CSF: £19.60. Tricast: £127.45.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £3,616.73 carried forward to Lingfield Park today).
Placepot: £28.00. Quadpot: £4.20.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Scotland call off regular date

CRICKET: Scotland have sacrificed their only first-class fixture this year, against Ireland, in order to assist their preparations for the 1999 World Cup.

"The match has only been put into abeyance for this season because we both have such congested fixtures lists," Alex Ritchie, general manager of the Scottish Cricket Union, said.

Both countries have been identified by the International Cricket Council for development towards full one-day international status and host extended tours from Bangladesh and Australia A this season.

Club selected

GOLF: Ganton Golf Club in North Yorkshire has been named as the new venue for the thirtieth Curtis Cup match in 2000. The competition was originally planned for the Royal Porthcawl Club.

Flame thrown

OLYMPIC GAMES: A blizzard blew out the Olympic flame three times in northern Japan yesterday during a nationwide relay of the torch, an official of the Nagano Olympic Committee said.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Norwich v Queens Park Rangers (7.30).

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Bolton v Notts County (at Leigh RMI, 7.0).

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: First round: Dundalk v Swilly Rovers (7.45).

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Third round: Everton v Stoke (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Derby Storm v Worthing Bears (8.0).

GOLF: President's Putter (at Rye).

FOOTBALL

Curcic may enlist in Fulham's grand adventure

BY MATT DICKINSON AND RICHARD HOBSON

FULHAM are considering the signing of the Aston Villa outcast, Sasa Curcic, as part of their ambitious plans to become a Premiership club within five years.

Preliminary talks have been held with the former Serbia international, who would almost certainly become the most expensive player in second-division history, passing the £2 million Fulham paid for Chris Coleman, the Wales and former Blackburn Rovers defender, last month.

The chances of a transfer could hinge on whether Curcic is willing to accept a drop in wages. He is believed to be earning at least £8,000 per week at Villa Park, to where he moved from Bolton Wanderers for £4 million.

The chance of first-team football after months on the sidelines, however, and the chance to move to London, may tempt the 25-year-old attacking midfield player to drop down two divisions and join the remarkable Craven Cottage adventure being spearheaded by Kevin Keegan.

Curcic, who has repeatedly fallen out with Brian Little, the Aston Villa manager, must also move to avoid falling foul of his work permit restrictions. As a non-EU national, he is required to play in the majority of club matches or face the withdrawal of his permit.

Ray Wilkins, the Fulham manager, confirmed last night that Curcic's transfer had been discussed, although he added: "We are going on very well, so there is no rush. It is just an option at the moment."

Wilkins has already spent around £6 million of Mohamed Al Fayed's fortune, and the team has risen into contention for a play-off place.

Fulham's conquerors in the FA Cup third round, Tottenham Hotspur, are set to complete the £3 million signing of Andy Hinchcliffe from Everton today, but there are doubts over the expected arrival of Moussa Saib, the Algeria international.

Hinchcliffe, the England full back, should be available for the trip to Manchester United on Saturday, provided he passes a medical. The 28-year-old joined Everton from Manchester City in 1990.

Saib, who has been put up for sale by Valencia for around £4 million, has been in London for talks with Tottenham officials and the head coach, Christian Gross. The midfield player is understood to be keen to move to the Premiership, but a club spokesman suggested last night that no transfer was imminent and that the deal may be put on hold until the spring.

There is fresh doubt over whether Viorel Moldovan, bought for £3.5 million from Grasshopper Zurich, will make his Coventry City debut away to Chelsea on Saturday after the Romania international was forced to return home to obtain the necessary stamp on his work permit. Under Home Office regulations, the document can only be validated at the British Embassy in Bucharest.

The German champions, Bayern Munich, are to play a friendly against Coventry at Highfield Road on January 27. Bayern will be using the game as preparation for their return from the mid-season break in the German league.

West Bromwich Albion are to send videotapes of Andy Hunt, their leading scorer, to the Austria Football Association to help his chances of being called up for the World Cup. Hunt, born in Thurrock, is eligible through an Austrian grandmother.

Christian Dailly, the Derby County and Scotland defender, has been told that he will have metal plates in his face for the rest of his life after fracturing his jaw in an accident against Bolton Wanderers last month.

Leicester City are giving trials to Henrik Bertilsson and Lars Gunnar, out-of-contract players from Sweden.



Curcic must accept pay cut

Referees gain chance to respond to criticism

REFEREES will be allowed to respond to their critics in the World Cup this year, Farouk Bouzo, the chairman of the Fifa referees' committee, said at the Football Expo meeting in Singapore yesterday. "There is a lot more pressure on referees in most countries. The time has come for them to be allowed to explain their actions," Bouzo said.

"People must understand that there is such a thing as human error and sometimes we must learn from mistakes. It is easy for people sitting in their chairs to criticise. We must let referees defend themselves and give their side."

Wimbledon will follow this development closely. Last Sunday, in their third-round FA Cup tie with Wrexham, they had a goal disallowed by Steve Dunn when the referee blew for full time a split second before Marcus Gayle headed the ball into the Wrexham net. Dunn refused to speak to journalists and also to Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, after the match.

☐ Ottmar Hitzfeld said yesterday that he would resign as Borussia Dortmund's director of sport at the end of the season. Hitzfeld, who until this season was the Dortmund coach, has been linked with several clubs, most recently Barcelona, after Dortmund's 1997 European Cup triumph.

Wright gets back on track

IAN WRIGHT returned from suspension to help Arsenal to a Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final victory over West Ham United on Tuesday night that prompted Arsène Wenger, the manager at Highbury, to declare: "I think we're back on track."

Wright had scored one goal in three months, before a two-game ban over Christmas. But his 29th goal in as many games in the competition — for Crystal Palace and Arsenal — helped his side to a 2-1 victory that owed much to John Hartson's first-half penalty miss minutes earlier.

Marc Overmars scored the Arsenal second in the 52nd minute and, although Samassi Abou, a substitute for West Ham, reduced the arrears, Arsenal held on.

Wenger said: "Before the game, I had the feeling that we were back in a good way, but we needed an important win to get the confidence back."

To compound West Ham's misery, Paul Kitson and Ian Pearce were both injured and will miss the game at home to Barnsley on Saturday.

The other quarter-final played on Tuesday was settled by a controversial late goal as Craig Hignett struck in the third minute of time to see Middlesbrough through at the expense of Reading.

Terry Bullivant, the manager, led the Reading criticism that surrounded referee George Cain's handling of the free kick that led to the goal. "When the Middlesbrough players dropped off, it looked like he had given a free kick to us," Bullivant said.

"We threw players forward, centre half Gareth Davies went charging up, yet they took the free kick and, before you know it, the ball was down our end and in the back of the net."

☐ Dundee have been told by the Scottish Football Association that they must switch their Scottish Cup third-round tie with St Mirren from Saturday, January 24. The game has to be moved because Dundee United have also been drawn at home, to Aberdeen.



DAN CHUNG / REUTERS

Huckerby has added tactical awareness and an improved first touch to his natural speed

Promise and practice bring prospects for Huckerby

Richard Hobson on a slow developer now blossoming in the Premiership

Experience comes in two ways. There are players such as Ryan Giggs, born to greatness, who break into the senior ranks soon after their first shave and become seasoned campaigners by their late teens. Then there are those who suffer rejection and frustration in their formative years and use it as an incentive to build a career.

Darren Huckerby fits into the latter category. At 21, he is considered one of the most exciting young talents in the game. Yet Huckerby had played for three clubs before signing for Coventry City 14 months ago and been discarded by a fourth, Notts County, as a 16-year-old, because he was too small.

Only the fact that his father played in the same amateur side as Keith Alexander, then the manager of Lincoln City, and asked Alexander to look at the boy, saved Huckerby Jr from drifting out of the game. Instead of the FA Carling Premiership, he might be playing with his mates at Clifton Albion, the Nottinghamshire side he watches loyally on Sunday mornings.

However, Alexander decided to sign him as a youth trainee within 20 minutes of a trial match and gave him his debut at 17 on a wet and windy night at Shrewsbury Town. Huckerby scored, but it would be wrong to say his career has moved onwards and upwards ever since.

A series of managers decided against buying the player until Kevin Keegan paid £500,000 to take him to Newcastle United. But Huckerby remembers his time at St James' Park with disappointment. He found Keegan a remote figure, preoccupied with his first team. Newcastle did not field a reserve side and it was a relief to be loaned to Millwall.

Even Coventry harboured doubts initially. Huckerby went to Highfield Road on trial and saw Gordon Strachan replace Ron Atkinson as the manager before the £1 million transfer was concluded. His value now is a matter for conjecture, his improvement a triumph for Strachan.

The manager has set time aside to give Huckerby one-to-one tuition in the afternoons. To the pace that was always apparent, Huckerby has improved his first touch and angles of running.

He does not take the "bread-and-butter" goals as ruthlessly as Michael Owen, of Liverpool, or overpower defenders with the strength of Emile Heskey, at Leicester City. With greater awareness of his team-mates, though, he will cause enough problems to realise Strachan's prediction by becoming an England international.

"Sometimes, if you look at the possession he gives away, it is not really acceptable for a top-class player," Strachan said. "He takes the wrong option sometimes, but that will only come as he plays more games. He has great talent, stunning pace and he can score goals."

This much was evident from the past two games, which have seen Coventry beat Manchester United 3-2 in the FA Carling Premiership and Liverpool 3-1 in the FA Cup. Huckerby has scored in each game and created the other four goals.

His strike against Manchester United — ghosting in from the right past two defenders before swerving outside another and retaining the composure to place his finish beyond Kevin Pilkington — was the best of his brief career. An ankle injury that has forced him to take painkillers since the start of the season has been little handicap.

Clearly Huckerby is unfazed by the quality of opposition, which ought to worry Chelsea ahead of the game at Stamford Bridge on Saturday. "Darren must now decide whether he wants to take his ability to a higher level," Strachan said. "I have told him that he can do that as long as he listens. His last two displays suggest he is listening."

SAILING

Swiftness of Cayard poses threat to leaders

BY EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE Whitbread Round the World Race yachts were yesterday back on the wind and beating slowly towards Cape Rienga in what the all-women crew on EF Education described as a "beastly easterly", after the unexpected appearance of a small low-pressure system in the path of the fleet.

The fourth-leg leader, Swedish Match, skippered by Gunnar Krantz, which overhauled Toshiba early yesterday, was expected to round the Cape at the tip of New Zealand's North Island late last night, before beginning the tricky 150-mile run down the coast to the finish at Auckland, possibly as early as this evening.

The big worry for some skippers, including Dennis Conner, on Toshiba, is that they may not lay the Cape and have to tack, letting the chasing boats through. The other big danger is Paul Cayard, on EF Language, who, after slipping back to eighth, had clawed his way back up to fifth, relegating Lawrie Smith, of Great Britain, on Silk Cut, to sixth place in doing so.

Cayard initially lost a lot of ground to the south of the fleet but yesterday he was sailing consistently faster than all the other boats and was enjoying a better wind angle than his rivals to the north. At midday, EF Language, particularly quick in light, reaching conditions, was clocked at 11.5 knots, a full two knots faster than the leading trio, although she was still 43 miles behind Swedish Match.

Cayard's recovery to fifth restores him as the overall leader of the race by just four points from Krantz, should their positions remain unchanged into Auckland. For Smith, however, the pressure was on again. If he arrives at Auckland in sixth, he may be as low as seventh place overall, with almost half of the race run.

Another crew feeling the pressure is Knut Frostad, on Innovation Kvaerner, who was back in seventh place and had almost 40 miles to make up on Silk Cut. Frostad, who started the race with the only two top-three finishes, into Cape Town and Fremantle, is letting things slip after coming in fifth at Sydney.

Grant Dalton, on Merit Cup, is nervously hanging on to third place for this leg, although he lost some miles on the leaders yesterday when his GPS showed that he was sailing in an adverse current. "We are approximately 24 hours from the top of New Zealand and should round [the Cape] in the dark and start the haul down the coast," he said.

Krantz, 25 miles ahead of Dalton, was still reflecting on the exhilarating conditions before the final approach to the Cape. "It was wet, crazy and fast," he said. "After some years now in a Whitbread 60, it is more fun than ever to blast along like that. Our top speed was not so high this time, due to the short waves, but we still reached 24 knots and an average of 18.8 knots for several hours."

RUGBY UNION

Sella ready to make return for Saracens

BY MARK SOUSTER

PHILIPPE SELLA could make his return for Saracens against Harlequins in the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division match at Vicarage Road on Sunday after making a successful comeback in a second-team match against Bath yesterday.

Sella, 35, has been injured for ten weeks but played most of the match yesterday, which Saracens won 19-15, and is available for selection. Whether Mark Evans, the coach, will split the first-choice pairing of Ryan Constable and Steve Ravenscroft is another matter.

Richard Hill, the England back-row forward, was unable to play but could be fit to take part against Harlequins on Sunday, or in England training on Wednesday, the same day as Saracens meet Blackheath in their rearranged Tetley's Bitter Cup fourth-round tie.

Although Bath and Leicester have opted to play their postponed ties on Saturday, Saracens are content to play in midweek, even without seven international players. As the club is expected to be challenging for the league title, it does not want to risk further fixture congestion later in the season.

"The danger of a backlog outweighs the risks of being unable to field a full-strength team against Blackheath," Evans said. "We have made a decision on how we best deploy our resources."

Leicester brought their tie forward from next Wednesday to avoid having to play Coventry without their England contingent, who are wanted for national squad training. Bath, who meet London Scottish at the Recreation Ground, want to leave the decks as clear as possible to prepare for the Heineken Cup final against Brive in Bordeaux on January 31.

Richard Yerbury, the London Scottish chief executive, said that the administrative chaos earlier this week highlighted the need for clarification about "who calls the time". "There are gaps in the paperwork as to who is responsible for what," Yerbury, who also believes the game should consider a mid-season break, said.

Meanwhile, South Africa have moved to end Auckland's domination of the Super 12 competition this year by confirming that they are creating four regional teams to play in the tournament.

Four 30-strong squads, roughly representing the territories of the Gauteng, Northern Transvaal, Natal and Western Cape provincial sides, will play in the Super 12. The squads will be announced in the middle of next month.

Nick Mallett, the South Africa coach, said: "We are working together in the interest of South African and Springbok rugby as a whole. We need the top 120 players in South Africa to get exposure in the Super 12." It seems likely that the core of provincial teams will remain in their regions, allowing most international players to continue playing with their provincial team-mates.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Phoenix 81 Indiana 80; Cleveland 100 Houston 70; Los Angeles Lakers 100 Vancouver 87; Chicago 90 Boston 79; Dallas 108 Denver 90; Utah 98 Philadelphia 95 (OT); Seattle 102 Charlotte 81; Sacramento 105 Los Angeles Clippers 89

CRESTA RUN

ST MORITZ: Stagni Cup: 1, S Reggor (Ger) 2min 05.45sec; 2, M Child (GB) 2:05.70; 3, G Emerson 2:07.55; 4, A Barclay (GB) 2:08.20; 5, C von Bohlen und Halbach (Austria) 2:08.47.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Melbourne (first day of four): New South Wales 331-1 (M J Slater 137, R Dawson 116 not out, C Richards 63 not out) v Victoria.

First Test match
Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe

KANDY (first day of five; Sri Lanka won toss): Sri Lanka have scored 265 for four wickets against Zimbabwe

SRI LANKA: First Innings

S T Jayasuriya lbw Streak	6
M S Atapattu not out	129
R S Mahanama c Campbell b Streak	7
P A de Silva c Whitall b Huckle	75
*A Ranatunga b Whitall	27
H P Tillekeratne not out	11
Extras (lb 1, nb 9)	10
Total (4 wkts)	265

†R S Kaluwitharana, W P U J C Vaas, K R Pushpakumara, M Muralitharan and K J Silva to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-33, 3-173, 4-226

BOWLING: Streak 24-8-58-2; B C Strang 21-4-65-0; P A Strang 20-6-69-0; Whitall 14-2-31-1; Huckle 11-2-41-1.

ZIMBABWE: *A D R Campbell, G W Flower, G J Rennie, M W Goodwin, †A Flower, C B Wishart, H H Streak, P A Strang, A R Whitall, A G Huckle, B C Strang.

Umpires: M J Kitchen (England) and B C Cooray (Sri Lanka).

DARTS

FRIMLEY GREEN, Surrey: Embassy world championship: Second round: R Bamevold (Holl) bt A Fordham (Eng) 3-2; S Beaton (Eng) bt I. Wallace (Scot) 3-2; T Hanley (Eng) bt M King (Eng) 3-0; C Monk (Eng) bt R Widdows (Eng) 3-2.

FOOTBALL

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Millwall 0 Portsmouth 0; Wimbledon 1 Oxford United 3

Tuesday's late results

COCA-COLA CUP: Quarter-finals: Reading 0 Middlesbrough 1; West Ham 1 Arsenal 2.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Third division: Scarborough 2 Darlington 1.

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Second round: Northern section: Blackpool 1 York 1 Blackpool (last 1-1 after 90min: Blackpool win 10-9 on pens); Carlisle 6 Rochdale 1; Grimsby 1 Hull 0; Hartlepool 1 Scunthorpe 2. Southern section: Bournemouth 2 Leyton Orient 0; Bristol City 1 Millwall 0; Exeter 1 Bristol Rovers 2; Swansea 1 Peterborough 2; Walsall 5 Brighton 0

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Second round: Clydebank v Montrose. Postponed: Arbroath 1 Queen of South 1

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Airdrie 2 Partick 1

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Altrincham 2 Leigh RMI 2.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: League Cup: Second round: Bilston 0 Redditch 1. Second-round replay: Dorchester 3 Havant 0. Third round: Margate 4 St Leonards 0.

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Hitchin 0 Oxford City 0. Third division: Aveley 1 Tring 1. Guardian Insurance Cup: Third-round replay: Basingstoke 1 Sutton United 3.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Sheffield Wednesday 0 Tranmere 0.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Bournemouth 1 Cowes Sports 1

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: Flint division: Portfield 0 Pagham 1

ITALIAN CUP: Quarter-final, first leg: Lazio 4 AS Roma 1.

SPANISH CUP: Third round, second leg: Compostela 2 Alaves 2 (Alaves win 3-2 on agg).

☐ All other matches postponed.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Washington 5 Toronto 3; Detroit 2 Phoenix 0; Pittsburgh 4 New York Islanders 2; New York Rangers 4 Carolina 2; Calgary 3 Colorado 1; St Louis 5 San Jose 1

MOTOR RALLYING

DAKAR RALLY: Seventh stage (Smara to Zouerat, 494km): Cars: 1, K Shinozuka (Japan, Mitsubishi) 4hr 7min 25sec; 2, J-P Fontenay (Fr, Mitsubishi) at 3min 39sec; 3, B Saby (Fr, Mitsubishi) 6:04; 4, J Kleinschmidt (Ger, Buggy) 11:06; 5, H Masuoka (Japan, Mitsubishi) 14:29; 6, J-L Schlesser (Fr, Buggy) 17:35. Motorcycles: 1, S Peterhansel (Fr, Yamaha) 4hr 38min 38sec; 2, C Sotelo (Sp, Cagiva) at 58sec; 3, F Meoni (2, KTM) 8min 43sec; 4, O Gallardo (Sp, BMW) 11:46; 5, A Cox (SA, KTM) 14:04; 6, R Sainct (Fr, KTM) 15:53. Overall: Cars: 1, Fontenay 15hr 20min 43sec; 2, Saby at 1min 10sec; 3, Shinozuka 5:04; 4, Schlesser 26:36; 5, Kleinschmidt 59:27; 6, Masuoka 1:12:12. Motorcycles: 1, Peterhansel 16hr 10min 3sec; 2, Meoni at 2min 26sec; 3, J Roma (Sp, KTM) 8:48; 4, Cox 19:02; 5, Gallardo 18:31; 6, Sainct 19:39; 10, J Deacon (GB, KTM) 1hr 5min 52sec.

SNOOKER

NORBRECK CASTLE HOTEL, Blackpool: Embassy world championship: Eighth qualifying round (Eng unless stated): R Hull (Fin) w/o W Sindler scr; J Burdington w/o A Higgins (Ire) scr; B Peaches bt N Selman 10-3; D King bt M Rhodes 10-5; A Cairns bt S Meghani 10-4; M Gaudens (Bel) bt P Wallace (N Ire) 10-4; N Terry bt G Thomson (Scot) 10-4; L Robinson bt R McDonald (Scot) 10-6; M Johnston-Allen bt M Dalgleish 10-4; C Horne (Scot) bt M Bailey 10-3; J Wallace bt B Hawkins 10-9; J O'Boye bt J Bayliss 10-7; G Baildey bt D Lumburg 10-5; S Bedford bt P Davison 10-7; M Wahlmann (Holl) bt A Knowles 10-9; N Barrow bt S Newbury (Wales) 10-8.

SQUASH

NATIONAL SUPER LEAGUE: Unnet Surbiton 2 Halifax Insurance 1 (Surbiton names first): T Harris lost to M Barrot 7-9, 9-4, 5-9, 2-9; D Meddings bt L Beachill 5-9, 9-7, 9-2, 1-9, 9-6; N Dogan bt D Campion 9-7, 9-6, 8-10, 7-9, 9-4; Dunraven Maestag 3 KL Lionhearts 0 (Maestag names first): A Gough bt D Jenson 9-10, 1-9, 10-8, 9-7, 9-4; M Williams bt M Chaloner 9-4, 9-7, 9-6; D Evans bt J Wellings 9-5, 9-8, 3-9, 6-9, 10-8); Rowlands Manchester 2 Ellis Lingfield 1 (Manchester names first): D Ryan lost to P Johnson 7-9, 10-8, 3-9, 9-6, 4-9; N Taylor bt S Meads 6-9, 7-9, 9-6, 9-7, 9-5; P Whitlock bt T Garner 9-7, 10-8, 6-9, 10-8).

SRA NATIONAL LEAGUE: Group A: Ilkley 1 Mitsubishi Electric Potters Bar 4 (Ilkley names first): A Stevenson bt J Ransome 9-5, 5-9, 9-8, 1-0 ret; B Pickaby lost to J Davies 5-9, 7-9, 6-9; S Pickering lost to P Carter 1-9, 4-9, 7-9; E Pearson lost to D Watson 9-3, 5-9, 0-9, 2-9; K Ellison lost to S Wright 1-9, 1-9); Armorcolor Priory 5 Irwin Mitchell Hallamshire 2 (Priory names first): C Leach bt P Lord 9-3, 10-9, 9-0; S Taylor bt J Dale 5-9, 4-9, 9-8, 9-8, 9-4; S Handley bt P Trenfield 10-9, 9-7, 9-4, J Kemp lost to N Wall 9-6, 1-9, 3-9, 9-2, 7-9; T Shanson lost to J Trenfield 9-8, 7-9, 4-9, 3-9).

SHEFFIELD: Commercial Union British junior open championships: Boys: Under-16: Final: A Manso (Sp) bt G Gaulter (Fr) 4-9, 9-1, 9-5, 9-3. Under-19: Final: Ong Beng Hee (Malaysia) bt J Russell (Ken) 9-4, 5-9, 9-1, 4-9, 9-5. Girls: Under-19: Final: T Bailey (Lincolnshire) bt Leong Siu Lynn (Malaysia) 9-7, 9-1, 9-4.

SWIMMING

PERTH, Australia: World championships: Men: 5km (open water): 1, A Akatiev (Russ) 55min 18.6sec; 2, K Hurst (Aus) 55:18.6; 3, L Baldini (It) 55:37.4; 4, E Bazrouchenko (Russ) 55:41.4; 5, D Meca (Sp) 55:42.7; 6, F Venturini (It) 55:54.7. Women: 5km (open water): 1, E Rose (US) 59min 28.5sec; 2, E van Dijk (Holl) 1hr 0min 58.6sec; 3, P Buchsa (Ger) 1:01:05.8; 4, M Ryther (US) 1:01:09.2; 5, V Casarini (It) 1:01:09.5; 6, B Whitehead (Aus) 1:01:10.7; 17, P Wood (GB) 1:03:56.0. Teams: 1, United States 19pts, 2, Russia 16; 3, Italy 14; 4, Australia 12; 5, Germany 10; 6, Slovenia 8.

TENNIS

PERTH, Australia: Hopeman Cup (mixed team tournament): Australia 2 Spain 1 (Australia names first: A Ellwood lost to A Sanchez Vicario 2-6, 6-6; P Rafter bt C Moya 7-5, 7-6; Rafter and Ellwood bt Moya and Sanchez Vicario 7-5, 6-2). South Africa 2 Germany 1 (South Africa names first: A Coetzer lost to A Huber 3-6, 3-6; W Ferreira bt T Haas 6-4, 3-6, 6-1; Ferreira and Coetzer bt Haas and Huber 6-2, 6-2).

DOHA: Qatar Open: First round: K Alami (Mor) bt Sultan Khalfan (Qatar) 6-2, 6-1; M Larsson (Swe) bt J Krolelk (Cz) 7-5, 6-4; S Schalken (Holl) F Dewulf (Bel) 6-0, 6-4; L Burgsmuller (Swe) bt R Ramsberg (US) 4-6, 6-3, 6-1; G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt H Arazi (Mor) 6-2, 6-3; J Tarango (US) bt M-K Gidow (Ger) 6-3, 6-4; B Karbacher (Ger) bt T Nydahl (Swe) 6-1, 6-1; C Costa (Sp) bt S Bruguera (Sp) 6-4, 6-2; A Medvedev (Ukr) bt D Vacek (Cz) 6-3, 6-4. Second round: T Henman (GB) bt G Rosus (Fr) 7-5, 6-4.

ADELAIDE: Men's Australian hardcourt championship: First round: G Kuerten (Sp) bt K Carlsen (Den) 7-6, 7-5; A Agassi (US) bt S Sargsian (Arm) 4-6, 6-3, 6-3. Second round: V Spadea (US) bt S Dosedel (Cz) 6-1, 6-2; N Escude (Fr) bt T Johansson (Swe) 4-6, 6-4, 6-4; L Hewitt (Aus) bt M Woodforde (Aus) 4-6, 7-6, 6-1; J Stoltenberg (Aus) bt J Bjorkman (Swe) 7-6, 6-1.

HOPE ISLAND: Women's Australian hardcourt championship: Second round: R Dragomir (Rom) bt M Grzybowska (Pol) 7-6, 6-4; S Pitrowski (Fr) bt D Cristoforeni (Cz) 6-1, 7-6; Shi-Ting Wang (Taiwan) bt R McQuillan (Aus) 7-6, 6-4; M de Swardt (SA) bt J Kandaev (Ger) 6-4, 2-6, 6-4; A Suppiyama Ueqoni bt C Barclay (Aus) 7-6, 6-1; B Schulz-McCarthy (Hol) bt C Morariu (US) 6-4, 6-2.

AUCKLAND, New Zealand: Classic: ASB women's classic: Second round: D van Roost (Bel) bt L Nemackova (Cz) 6-0, 6-4; J Halard-Decugis (Fr) bt C Cristea (Rom) 6-2, 7-6; S Cacic (US) w/o M Bobal (Ger) scr; S Testud (Fr) bt J Hussarova (Slovakia) 6-2, 6-0; T Tanasugarn (Tha) bt Y Yoshida (Japan) 7-5, 7-6.

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 23 points £59,247.80, 22pts £233.60, 21pts £25.50, 20pts £4.90. Half-time result: 24 points £141,650.

VERNONS: Treble chance: 24pts £175,709.00, 23pts £1,286.25, 22pts £147.40. Super Shots £3.75. Premier 10 £110.00.

ZETTERS: Treble chance pool (6 score-draws from 49 matches), 24 points £33,003.60; 23pts £197.65; 22pts £12.75; 21pts £1.90. 4 aways £3.00; 8 homes (nothing barred) £8.80; 4 draws (from all 12 draws) £33. All draws treble chance (from all 12 draws) 24pts £901.05; 23pts £44.95

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 38

SHAKUHACHI
(c) An end-blown Japanese flute, made of bamboo. "The Shakuhachi, introduced into Japan from China by Prince Tsuneyoshi as far back as 1335, seems to have been treated from the first as a solo instrument."

WEHMUT
(b) Sadness, melancholy, wistfulness, nostalgia. The German word. "What I feel when I listen to music is chiefly Wehmut, and I don't think much of Wehmut. It is a forlorn thing, made up mostly of vague ingredients — vague yearnings, vague regrets, vague dissatisfactions."

SENNEGRASS
(a) An Arctic sedge, *Carex vesicaria*. Old Norse *sina* withered grass. *Nansen's Farthest North*, 1897: "Turn them [sc. Finn shoes] inside out, fill them with sennegrass or sedge, and creep into the sleeping-bag."

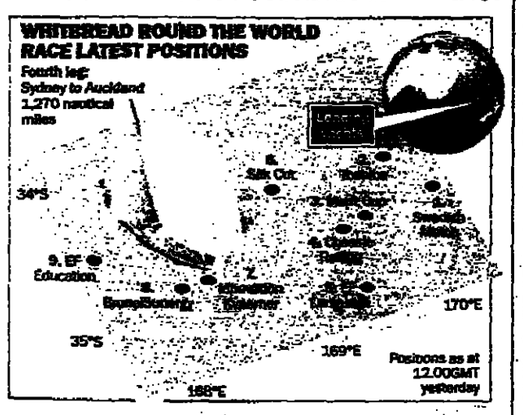
TOENADERING
(a) Rapprochement, especially between political parties or factions. Afrikaans from the Dutch *toe* towards + *nadering* approach. "He must draw a large Nationalist vote if he is to win those English-speaking people who want White toenadering."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qg8+! Kxg8 2 Be6+ Kh8 3 Rg8 checkmate

WHITEBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE LATEST POSITIONS

Fourth leg: Sydney to Auckland 1,270 nautical miles



Positions as at 12.00GMT yesterday

DISTANCE TO FINISH: Positions (at 1200GMT yesterday, with miles to Auckland): 1, Swedish Match (Swe) 321.9; 2, Toshiba (US) 323.5; 3, Merit Cup (Monaco) 347.3; 4, Chessie Racing (US) 394; 5, EF Language (Swe) 364.9; 6, Silk Cut (GB) 369.9; 7, Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 402; 8, BrunoSurnergy (Fra) 411.7; 9, EF Education (Swe) 433.1.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Pists	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm) °C	Last snow
ANDORRA							
Soldeu	25	70	fair	varied	fair	sun -3	1/1
	(Good skiing to be found on most pistes)						
AUSTRIA							
Kitzbühel	10	88	good	heavy	closed	fine 2	6/1
	(Very good skiing conditions on uncrowded slopes)						
Obergurgl	95	160	good	powder	good	fine -2	6/1
	(Wonderful skiing in lovely sunshine and fresh snow)						
FRANCE							
Alpe d'Huez	75	180	good	varied	good	sun -4	6/1
	(Very good skiing in all areas; beautiful weather)						
Avoriaz	90	110	good	varied	good	fine -2	6/1
	(Excellent skiing available both on and off piste)						
ITALY							
Cervinia	80	210	good	powder	good	fine -3	6/1
	(All pistes in perfect condition)						
SWITZERLAND							
Klosters	40	130	good	powder	good	fine 1	6/1
	(Fantastic skiing in all areas, both on and off piste)						
Saas Fee	50	195	good	powder	worn	sun -3	6/1
	(Excellent skiing on all the upper runs)						
Zermatt	20	95	good	varied	worn	fair -2	6/1
	(Plenty of varied skiing on some great snow)						

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

هكذا من الإصل

CRICKET

Tour party worried by state of Test pitch

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN ANTIGUA

AS THE frustration among the reluctantly idle England tour party grew yesterday, a new problem emerged on the unsettled Antiguan horizon. The Recreation Ground in St John's, venue for the final match of the forthcoming Test series, is a bizarre sight at present, the outfield and most of the square reduced to mud.

Bob Bennett, the England tour manager, has sought and received assurances that the ground will have recovered before the start of the final Test, on March 20. This, however, is only ten weeks distant and, as Bennett said: "If an English ground was in that state so close to a Test match, there would be panic."

Caribbean grounds make a habit of brinkmanship but this is an extreme example. Returfing of the entire playing area, and construction of two new stands to accommodate the 5,000 England supporters due here in March, have been brought to a standstill by a week of poor weather. The noisiest, most atmospheric Test venue in the world, site of Brian Lara's world-record score four years ago, is a mess.

The outfield was recently dug up to install a new drainage system but its scheduling would cause nightmares for the more conservative of English planners, accustomed to having sporting sites pristine months in advance. Yesterday, a spokesman for the workforce agreed that progress was at the mercy of the weather. "Right now," he said, "we cannot do anything."

The work is under the supervision of Andy Roberts, the former West Indies fast bowler and coach, who now holds a position in the island's sports ministry. Roberts was yesterday expecting a consignment of turf from Miami but the relaying operation cannot start until the weather relents. A sequence of storms yesterday was hardly encouraging.

I have never seen a ground in such a decomposed state, so close to an important match, yet the "no-problem" culture of this Caribbean island continues to hold sway. Bennett, alerted to the state of the ground, has spoken to officers of the West Indies Board. "They insist they are ahead of schedule and that there are no worries," he said yesterday.

Other, weather-related worries, however, continue to mount for Bennett and his charges. Even in the introductory week of a tour, planned as a leisurely acclimatisation exercise, there is only so much inactivity the average player can stomach.

The team is resident in a massive, impersonal resort adjoining the still unusable practice facility. Though their villas are stylish, it is not an ideal environment for cricketers keen to proceed with the business of an important tour.

"It is difficult in a complex such as this," Bennett said. "If we are not careful, it can develop into an unhealthy mentality, something of a siege." With that in mind, the players have been spared any more of the improvised fielding drills on beaches, tennis courts and heliports that have been the extent of their productivity so far. They were given a day off yesterday and encouraged to take a fishing trip or play golf.

Bennett has made tentative inquiries about moving on earlier than scheduled in search of significant practice but such contingency plans have fallen down on two counts. England are guests here, as the West Indies try to establish Antigua as an international cricket training centre, and the weather is reportedly little better around the rest of the Caribbean.

"I made inquiries in Jamaica, where we are due next week, but the rain is just as bad there," Bennett said. "There is also a match at Sabina Park this weekend, so the facilities are simply not ready for us. We must go on taking one day at a time, preparing as best we can."

AMURUDDHA LOKUHAPUARACHCHI



The Zimbabwe captain, Alistair Campbell, dives to catch Mahanama, a wicket that put Sri Lanka in need of Atapattu's steadying bat yesterday

Kenya display long-term failings

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN NAIROBI

THE locals here have no doubt that El Nino has caused the unseasonal rains that have bedevilled England A's short tour of Kenya. Whether the same weather phenomenon can be blamed for Kenya's poor showing on the cricket field is another matter.

The second day of their match against England A once again illustrated the gap that exists between the two sides, and how much the Kenyans will have to improve if they want to take their place at the top table of international cricket.

There have been less than a dozen three-day matches played in this country, and the lack of experience of the extended game proved their undoing here. The longest most of the players expect to spend in the field is three hours; now they were being asked to go out for a third session and the bowlers simply wilted at the thought. All the basic disciplines disappeared, the field settings were naive and the score mounted at a remorseless rate.

Darren Maddy played and missed the first ball of the day, but scarcely made a mistake after that. The Leicestershire batsman had already recorded his highest first-class score, and went on to reach another milestone — a double century. His previous best came against Oxford University, and the Kenya attack was some way below even that oft-criticised level. Long hops preceded and followed full tosses and most of them were seized upon by Maddy. He had helped himself to 24 fours and four sixes before finally holing out at long leg. The fact that he smacked his pad with his bat in annoyance at getting out showed a hunger for runs that should serve him well.

Mark Ealham had already departed, the victim of an outstanding piece of fielding. This is one area where Kenya can compete, as illustrated when Steve Tikolo took off high to his right to hold on to a full-blooded cut. The chance for easy runs, therefore, eluded Ealham, but David Sales came in to display his full range of uncomplicated stroke-play. When the declaration came, he had scored 48 from 30 balls with four fours and three sixes.

Paul Hutchison swung the ball to take two quick wickets, James Ormond removed the dangerous Maurice Odumbe, but Ravindu Shah and Tikolo both displayed heart and application. However, Ashley Giles found a way through with his left-arm spin and Kenya were on the verge of following on when torrential rain returned to at least delay what is likely to be a miserable conclusion to this match for them.

☐ Glenn McGrath, the Australia fast bowler, will undergo tests on a stomach injury before deciding whether he can play in the third Test against South Africa in Adelaide at the end of the month. McGrath had thought that the pain in his left side stemmed from a strained muscle, but he now fears he has torn an abdominal muscle.

SCOREBOARD FROM NAIROBI

ENGLAND A: First Innings

S P James c Odumbe b Karim	29
*N V Knight c Shah b Onyango	98
D L Maddy c Suji b Shah	202
M A Ealham c Tikolo b Shah	14
D J Sales not out	47
A Flintoff not out	2
Extras (lb 6, w 1, nb 4)	11
Total (4 wkts dec)	402

A F Giles, J Ormond, †O R W Reed, D A Cosker and P M Hutchison did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-48, 2-235, 3-297, 4-380.

BOWLING: Suji 15-0-53-0; Angara 11-2-46-0; Shah 13.4-2-60-2; Karim 21-4-65-1; Deen 4-0-27-0; Odumbe 7-1-29-0; Patel 5-0-37-0; Tikolo 2-0-16-0; Onyango 11-2-61-1; Vadher 1-0-12-0.

Umpires: S Patel and M Khan.

KENYA: First Innings

†K Otieno lbw b Hutchison	0
H Vadher b Hutchison	5
R Shah c Giles b Ealham	57
M Odumbe c Flintoff b Ormond	16
S Tikolo c Knight b Giles	43
T Suji b Ealham	0
B Patel b Ealham	4
*A Karim c Ormond b Giles	24
L Onyango not out	1
Z Deen not out	0
Extras (lb 2, nb 2)	4
Total (8 wkts)	154

J Angara to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-12, 3-44, 4-92, 5-92, 6-119, 7-151, 8-153.

BOWLING: Ormond 14-5-34-1; Hutchison 9-0-28-2; Cosker 9-2-48-0; Ealham 10-3-29-3; Giles 5-0-13-2.

Sri Lanka lifted by Atapattu

MARVAN ATAPATTU hit a career-best, unbeaten 129 to help Sri Lanka reach 265 for four on the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at the Sagiriya stadium in Asgiriya yesterday.

Sri Lanka won the toss but Sanath Jayasuriya, who scored six, and Roshan Mahanama, who made seven, quickly fell to the fast bowler, Heath Streak.

With two wickets down and only 33 runs on the board, Atapattu lifted Sri Lanka with a splendid effort. He shared in a 140-run stand for the third wicket with Aravinda de Silva, who made a rapid 75, including nine fours and a six over mid-wicket off Bryan Strang.

Zimbabwe broke the stand through the leg spinner, Adam Huckle, who had De Silva caught at cover point by Andrew Whittall, who later claimed the wicket of Arjuna Ranatunga for 27. Atapattu's second Test century included 17 fours.

GOLF

Rotheroe hoping to extend reign

BY JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

IN THE soft sunshine in California this morning, the American professional golfers will start their 1998 campaigns at the hedonists' playground of the La Costa resort. The sun should be warm, the prize-money available well over £1 million.

To those who treasure the eccentricities of life in Britain, no less important a tournament starts this morning at Rye. The weather will be appalling, the competitors are the very acme of amateurism, much of the golf will be bad and there is no prize-money. Indeed, a £25 entrance fee must be paid.

There is a link between the tournaments, nonetheless. Both events demand fortitude as well as skill, and while the Mercedes championship in the US has a purse that boggles the mind, the President's Putter in East Sussex has a history that Americans can scarcely comprehend. The Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society, from which the competitors come, is celebrating its centenary, so this makes it half as old as the United States itself.

Sadly, the distinctive figure and parade-ground voice of Col Anthony Duncan will be absent this year. Duncan, a former Walker Cup captain and president of the society from 1979 to 1983, died at the weekend. Thus was diminished further the ranks of those distinguished onlookers at Rye.

Charlie Rotheroe, a devil-may-care all-rounder, is attempting to win his third successive Putter, a feat achieved previously only by Sir Ernest Holderness, who won four in a row in the 1920s. "I feel as though I am playing as well as at any time in the past two years," Rotheroe said yesterday from the warmth of his City office, where he was working on European monetary union matters. "Of course, it is tempting fate to admit that."

Rotheroe has been drawn in what might be called a "group of death". It also contains Neil Pabari, whom he beat in the final in 1996, and Richard Sanders, the Oxford captain in 1994, as well as Alex Boatman, the only woman competitor, who is making her debut. "I hear that Neil and Richard have both been loosening up in warmer climes," Rotheroe said. "That sounds rather ominous."

As darkness fell in East Sussex last night, so the wind dropped and the storms ended. Only briefly, one hopes. The Putter and good weather are unnatural bedfellows. What this competition needs in its centenary year is to be played in a constant and stiff wind accompanied by lashing rain. Happily, the forecast is for just that.

MOTOR RACING: MONTEZOMOLO SAYS THAT SECOND WILL NOT BE GOOD ENOUGH

Ferrari make bold declaration of intent

BY ROB HUGHES

THE last Formula One season ended bitterly, and although the new one does not start until March 8, acrimony returned to the sport yesterday. Williams are to "steal" the red racing colour of Ferrari — and the Italian response is: we will take your title.

Changing the Williams livery from blue to red is undisguised pragmatism. Rothmans, the team sponsor, ordered the switch to promote its Winfield cigarette brand, reinforcing the British Government's special deal that still permits motor racing to be branded at the will of tobacco companies.

Meanwhile, at Maranello, there was a clear message at the unveiling of Ferrari's car for 1998. From the president to the drivers, Michael Schumacher and Eddie Irvine, the tone was unequivocal: no excuses. Ferrari expects its first drivers' championship for 19 seasons.

"If we do not win, then we will have failed," Luca di Montezemolo said. Not once previously in his six-year presidency had he been so bold, nor left himself so vulnerable. Ferrari, he acknowledged, was playing catch-up. Now, although all the teams could be slowed by three seconds per lap because of technical changes imposed for safety reasons by the FIA, the sport's governing body, Ferrari do not countenance second place.

"We are a powerful team," Schumacher said. Irvine talked of winning his first Formula One race, and of starting on level terms for the first time since his Formula 3000 days in Japan. And the president put it this way: "Last year we won five grands prix, but were beaten by a better car. Congratulations to Williams . . . anyone among the top five to seven drivers could have won the title at the wheel of that Williams."

But Williams has now lost its Renault engine; Ferrari has a new ten-cylinder engine and the obligatory grooved tyres that will slow down all contenders in corners. The modifications that are being tested in Ferrari's new wind tunnel — which many people felt was essential to the company's competitiveness — cost $4 million (about £2.5 million) but Montezemolo, with the first stab of the new year at Jacques Villeneuve, concluded: "We can rely on the best driver in the world."

Schumacher, unscathed after steering his Ferrari into Villeneuve's Williams at Jérez last October, smiled and dismissed reports that a prosecutor in Germany had begun investigations after a citizen's complaint that Schumacher deliberately caused the collision. He is looking forwards, not back.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Ashton quits as chairman in St Helens shake-up

ERIC ASHTON, the former Great Britain captain and coach, has resigned as chairman of St Helens after four years, claiming that he has lost the support of his fellow directors (Christopher Irvine writes).

"It's a sad day, but I can't work with people I can't trust," Ashton said. "I didn't know what was going on and cannot stay as chairman under those circumstances. When I was appointed, the board decided we would stop the three-year time-limit as chairman and vice-chairman. It appears there was another director interested in becoming chairman. To save embarrassment, I offered to stand down, but I didn't get a response and that made me wonder what was happening."

Ashton, 62, has been replaced as chairman by Tom Ellard, and Howard Morris has become vice-chairman. "Eric has been a tremendous chairman and a personal friend," Ellard said. "I am sure he will continue his excellent work as a board member."

Warrington have appointed Danny Farrar, their signing from Penrith Panthers, as captain. He succeeds Paul Sculthorpe, who joined St Helens last month.

Coaches and players urged to take positive approach

Crisfield setting gold standard

SARAH POTTER



Penny Crisfield would not reveal her age but, as a former international lacrosse player, coach, sports psychologist and administrator, she has a string of sporting successes that would take most people more than one lifetime to achieve.

She is the assistant chief executive of the National Coaching Foundation (NCF), formed in 1983 as the coaching arm of the Sports Council. It became a separate entity in 1989 and, with Crisfield running the publications and PR departments, now spreads its message with the slogan: "Better Coaching ... Better Sport".

To Crisfield, that does not mean coaching by rote. "I have a very strong criticism of the way that we both teach and coach games in this country," she said. "We are often guilty of an overemphasis on technique too early, which can stifle flair and creativity, and then we wonder why we have rather boring players who don't make good decisions."

It is a belief shaped by experience. Crisfield believes that she would not have played international lacrosse had she taken up the sport at school. "I went to college as a netball player but found it was too cliquey," she said. "Learning it [lacrosse] as an 18-year-old meant I had a fresh approach. I was never that good a technician but, being a tactical sort of player, my head was always around outwitting the opposition."

No surprise, then, that after six years as a player, during which she experienced two World Cups, winning a bronze medal in 1986, she became the Scotland coach. One of the reasons that her teams flourished was the application of her sports psychology techniques.

"As a player I was always very aware of the impact of the head in terms of how well you played," she said. "The psychology bit with the Scottish squad was interesting. One year, we were playing at home and I'd just run the morning training session. I was aware of a lack of confidence so I took the players into the changing-room, got them to lie down, shut their eyes and focus on the game.

"I then asked them to raise their hands if they honestly thought we could win that game. To my horror, all the established players had their hands down. That was a huge opportunity for me to change that mind-set, which I did."

Crisfield worked her brand of psychology in a variety of sports. Netball, archery and ice skating all benefited, but when she joined the NCF in 1988 it became her job to improve the infrastructure of coaching.

The NCF now has ten regional offices in England and similar units in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. There are 120,000 coaches on its database and Crisfield is responsible for developing the courses, materials and tutors, from beginner to international coach.

She argues that if Great Britain wants to win more medals, there is a difficult choice to be made. "We're too egalitarian," she said. "It's a lovely attitude, but to win gold medals we will have to prioritise and invest. To be world-beaters nowadays you can't have a laid-back approach."

To underline her point, Crisfield said that Ian McGeechan, head coach of the triumphant British Isles rugby tour of South Africa last year, is a member of the NCF's board. "It's fascinating talking to him about his attitude and approach," she said.

"The way he empowered those players and the total professionalism that went into the thinking, planning and preparation for that tour — it was huge. If you went back ten years in any sport, successful or not, I don't believe anything like that attention to detail would have taken place. The country has to decide what it wants."

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

HANSA 82 & MARINE MANAGEMENT LIMITED - COMPANY NO: 1511894
HANSA 82 & MARINE SERVICES LIMITED - COMPANY NO: 1511852
HANSA SERVICES (UK) LIMITED - COMPANY NO: 1511893
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rules 4.182A and 12.5 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the joint liquidator of the above companies intends to make a distribution to creditors within four months of 13 February 1998. Creditors are required to submit full details of their claims to the joint liquidator, Stephen Treharne, at KPMG, PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP on or before Friday 13 February 1998, which is the last day for proving claims, the amount of the claim and particulars of how and when the debt was incurred by the company.
Notice is also given that the intended distribution is a final distribution and will be made without regard to any claims not made by the last day for proving claims. All funds transferring in the joint liquidators' hands following the final distribution to creditors will be distributed to shareholders absolutely.
Hansa the companies are able to pay all their known creditors in full.
Dated: 22 December 1997.
S Treharne - Joint Liquidator.

No 005794 of 1997
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
In the Matter of
TRINITY PHARMACEUTICALS HOLDINGS LIMITED
-and-
In the Matter of
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 10 December 1997 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named company and approving the Minute set out in the Schedule to the said Order was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 23 December 1997.
Dated this 8th day of January 1998.
Halliwell Landau (Ref HJ/JJD)
St James's Court
Brown Street
Manchester M2 2JF

STERLING INTERNATIONAL PREFERENCE LIMITED (IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
Company No: 00731402
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
On 11th December 1997 the above company was placed into Members' Voluntary Liquidation and Simon Allport and Roy Bailey of Grant Thornton, Stank House, 9 Charlotte Street, Manchester were appointed Joint Liquidators by the Members.
The Joint Liquidators give notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to Simon Allport at the above address by 6th February 1998.
The Liquidators also give notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A (6) that on 16th February 1998 they intend to make a final return to creditors who have submitted claims by 6th February 1998 and that there will be no further distribution to creditors. The final return to creditors will be made without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not already proved.
The company is able to pay all of its known creditors in full.
S Allport, Joint Liquidator.

No 005795 of 1997
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
In the Matter of
TRINITY PHARMACEUTICALS LIMITED
-and-
In the Matter of
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 10 December 1997 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named company and approving the Minute set out in the Schedule to the said Order was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 23 December 1997.
Dated this 8th day of January 1998.
Halliwell Landau (Ref HJ/JJD)
St James's Court
Brown Street
Manchester M2 2JF

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
NO 005695 of 1997
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF FISHWICK RIVERSIDE LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 10 December 1997 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above named company from £12,000,000 to £161,569 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the company as altered, the several particulars required by the above mentioned Act was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 22 December 1997.
Dated this 6 day of January 1998
Streathers
Clerk Hall Court
Infirmary Street
Leeds LS1 2JB
Solicitors for the above-named Company
Tel: 0113 243 0391
Ref: JD

The Insolvency Act 1986
OASIS OFFICE SUPPLIES LTD
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 27th January 1998 at The Old Bakery, Lower Gower Road, Royston, Herts, SG8 5BA at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dunnington, FIPA, of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Churchhouse Square, London, EC1M 4BH is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
Dated this 6th day of January 1998
By Order of the Board
Miss H. Oakes, Director

The Insolvency Act 1986
THE PRINT CUPBOARD LIMITED
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, K P Bagry, FCA, of Leonard Curtis & Co, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LA was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company by Members and Creditors on 31st December 1997.
Dated 31st December 1997
K P BAGRY, Liquidator.

PUBLIC NOTICES

RUKBA
An Extraordinary General Meeting of Members of The Royal United Kingdom Beneficent Association will be held at 6 Avonmore Road, London W14 at 12.30pm on Thursday 12 February 1998 to consider the draft of a new Supplemental Charter and Bye-laws.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Notice
MERCHANT SHIPPING (ACCIDENT REPORTING AND INVESTIGATION) REGULATIONS 1994
Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to regulation 6(4) of the Merchant Shipping (Accident Reporting and Investigation) Regulations 1994 the Chief Inspector of Marine Accidents has ordered an Inspector's Inquiry into the explosion aboard the UK-flagged cruise vessel ISLAND PRINCESS on 7 December 1997 near Naples, Italy, in which two people died.
Any persons who desire to make representations as evidence to the Inspector which would assist him in determining the circumstances and causes of the accident should write to the Inspector at the following address, no later than 14 days from the date of publication of the Notice:
Marine Accident Investigation Branch
Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions
First Floor, Carlton House, Carlton Place
Southampton SO15 2DZ
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND THE REGIONS

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Wrestling with an age-old problem

BRYANT'S EYE

Beware of anyone who mucks about with sport to make it "better for the spectator". There have been howls of "What about the spectators?" from Tyneside this week because Stevenage Borough have opted to stage their FA Cup tie against Newcastle United at their delightfully small ground. And spectator power has been making a splash in Australia, where so-called "submarine swimming" has been outlawed by limiting to 15 metres the distance that butterfly swimmers can travel under water at starts and turns.

One of the objections to these human torpedoes, who keep breaking world records, is that "spectators are being deprived of the action". So the swimmers have been ordered up to the surface, where the crowd and the ever-present television cameras can keep an eye on them.

That is the trouble with spectators — for them, sport is simply about watching and being entertained and, in the age of professionalism, sport is only too willing to fiddle around with its rules to please the ticket-holder or the camera operator.

It is nothing new. Back in 19th-century Britain, the middle-class defenders of amateurism feared the menace of the spectator. In those days they still had the quaint notion that sport was something that you played rather than stood around and watched.

Here, for example, is H. H. Almond, the headmaster of Loretto Academy, the Scottish public school, writing in 1892: "No idle spectators should be allowed to stand looking on at school sides. The very sight of loungers takes the spirit out of players, and the loungers should be doing something else if they are too feeble for football. Spectating is the greatest of all football dangers."

A century on, the loungers call the shots. Those who play spectator-friendly sport can carry off fortunes and those "too feeble for football" can watch moving pictures of it every night.

Some sports are simply not spectator-friendly or suited to television, but that does not stop them from making pathetic efforts to turn their contests into entertainment. Squash, for instance, is a great game to play but impossible to watch. In desperation, they put their players in glass boxes, but still spectators could not follow the action. It was not until an ingenious dentist used his finest drill to cover the ball in tiny holes and fill them with glittering specks that anyone could pick it out on television.

Traditional cross-country running, a muddy and miserable affair for the spectator, is increasingly staged over small, multi-lap courses, with the runners always in camera shot. In Paris, they even plan to run cross-country indoors at the Stade de Bercy. Entertainment is what it is all about and, in the name of entertainment, the rule-tinkerers will never leave sport alone.

The tie-break was brought into tennis for fear that spectators were becoming bored. The same fear has led to a crisis of confidence over the power of the service in men's tennis and the tinkerers are in there calling for heavier balls, wooden rackets, higher nets, smaller courts or a one-service game.

It is not enough for today's spectators to see a field of athletes racing around a track. What they want is the entertainment of a record attempt, so athletic hares are brought on to set the pace — professional entertainers in spikes.

Swimmers, even when they are on the surface, are still a bit too boring for some. One past secretary of the Amateur Swimming Association, Norman Sarsfield, once suggested that swimmers should race round in circles like athletes to make competition more exciting.

In the United States it is no accident that their favourite sports — American football, baseball and basketball — are all television-friendly. In the name of entertainment, of course, some sports have been dredged from obscurity to be given the screen treatment. Snooker, with its multi-coloured balls and screen-shaped table, might have been made for television, but before the cameras rediscovered the game (after colour television became commonplace) it whiled away a century or so in crowd-free, smoke-filled club-rooms. Attempts to pull the same trick with beach volleyball, topless darts and the sport of ballroom dancing have so far met with patchy success.

Ever fiercer competition, better training methods and technological improvements have always put pressure on the rules and rituals of sport, and there is nothing wrong with changing them if that helps to protect the integrity and character of the game. But there are dangers. The lurch to entertainment can go too far.

In the early years of this century there was no finer sport and no greater crowd-puller than professional wrestling. When George Hackenschmidt, "The Russian Lion", took on Madrali, "The Terrible Turk" at Olympia in 1904, demand for tickets brought gridlock to London. The great match was actually over in two minutes, with "The Terrible Turk" beaten and nursing a dislocated arm.

All too soon there were to be no more two-minute bouts as the actors and entertainers took over wrestling and turned this once great sport into a debased sideshow. It is an example that sport might remember whenever anyone mutters about making their game just that little bit more entertaining.

JOHN BRYANT

TELEVISION CHOICE

Four-legged heroes

Animals in Uniform
BBC1, 8.00pm

Rolf Harris may be taking a break but meanwhile here is another series that will be essential viewing for animal lovers, which probably means many millions of us. The British Armed Forces have in their ranks more than 1,000 dogs and 400 horses and these four-legged fighters are recruited and trained at the Defence Animal Centre at Melton Mowbray. In the first programme we follow the story of Fred, a frisky German shepherd whose owner has been forced to find him a new home. The centre has six weeks to turn Fred from a pet into a military guard dog, with Bosnia as the eventual front line. As Fred is on the lazy side, the requirement that he can attack and bite a suspect's arm may be a stringent one. He must also be taught to stay calm under gunfire. Sandi Toksvig provides the unstuffy narration.



Dogs of war (BBC1, 8.00pm)

Jeremy Clarkson's Extreme Machines
BBC2, 8.30pm

Having apparently decided that mere cars are not quick or hairy enough for him, Jeremy Clarkson sets out to sample more excitingly hazardous ways of getting about. It soon becomes obvious that the series is about rich men's toys (no women are involved, at least not so far) for such thrills do not come cheap. Racing souped-up Second World War fighter planes in the Nevada Desert is a million-dollar sport and definitely not for nervous travellers. All credit to Clarkson for trying it, though his running commentary on a ride that is obviously scaring him rotten makes Murray Walker sound like snooker's Ted Lowe. The same can be said for Clarkson's initiation into Formula One powerboat racing. "Holy cow!" he roars. "Oh, my word this is really quick . . . this is insane . . . oh, Lord!" The attractions of being a couch potato grow by the second.

Meet the Ancestors
BBC2, 9.00pm

There could be no gentler contrast to Clarkson's macho escapades than this series about digging up human remains. We are talking not about unsolved murders but archaeological finds going back many thousands of years. The first programme comes from the Yorkshire Dales where one cave has yielded not only human bones 3,500 years old but human footprints of similar vintage. The fascination of the show is demonstrating what modern knowhow, helped by computer simulation, can make of these fragments. The answer is quite a bit and it is promised that at the end of each programme we shall see a complete facial reconstruction. The promise is duly delivered, along with a demonstration of how a sliver of tooth can pin down the age of one of our prehistoric forebears.

Roger Roger
BBC1, 9.30pm

As he has shown in *Only Fools and Horses*, John Sullivan is not only a master of depicting life at the lower end but has the ability to stretch the sitcom beyond its usual half-hour length. Both talents are evident in his new comedy, set in a struggling London taxi company. Robert Daws, in a partial reprise of his pompous cricket captain in *Outside Edge*, plays the harassed boss trying to control his disparate team of drivers. A running gag about a capricious new radio communication system that communicates more than it should might suggest a remake of *Carry On Cabby*. But it is hardly enough to support a 50-minute episode and, in any case, Sullivan is more concerned with the comedy of character. With at least ten resident characters to play with, he has plenty of scope. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

The Carried Goat Show
Radio 2, 10.00pm

One should tread with extreme care around the edges of new comedy shows with daft titles but the first in this new series has enough wacky ideas that work to suggest that the series has legs. Dan Gaster, Will Ing and Ben Silburn are the lead players and they have a lot of experience around the broadcast comedy circuit by now. My favourite characters are the Blah Men, who spend their time composing "why oh why" letters to the newspapers, but the best moment tonight is the argument between a negotiator and a terrorist about which Beatles album included *Strawberry Fields Forever*. There are sketches that would benefit from tighter editing and at times the acceptably silly touches the unacceptably pointless.

Continent of Dreams
Radio 4, 9.30am

Fergal Keane, the former BBC correspondent in South Africa, presents a new four-part series in which he returns to Angola, South Africa and, today, Uganda. Keane has only been away a year but much has changed. The great strength of a series such as this is that it reminds us that people's lives continue even after — perhaps especially after — the news spotlight has moved away. In Uganda, still associated in most British minds with the dreadful Idi Amin, Keane finds a country revitalised and now seen as one of Africa's few successes. Keane, one of the best radio reporters, is distinguished by two vital but rare facilities: he has a keen eye for important detail and he never seeks to become part of the story. **Peter Barnard**

Australians fail to make an impact in calmer waters



Rose, of the United States, cuts impressively through the water on her way to victory in the women's five-kilometre open-water race

Conditions keep Wood all at sea

FROM CRAIG LORD IN PERTH, AUSTRALIA

THERE are not many sharks and dolphins in Langley, near Slough, nor a burning sun of the sort that grilled sand, surf and swimmers in the five-kilometre open-water race at the world championships here yesterday. Indeed, Paula Wood, of Britain, had every cause to hanker after the cool of the local pool that she uses for training.

Wood, in fact, felt more seasick than homesick, having spent just over an hour bobbing about on the waves in what was only her sixth five-kilometre challenge and her first away from the rivers and lakes to which she has become accustomed.

Fair of skin and unused to the swell, Wood is a pool swimmer who supports her sporting career with wages earned as a lifeguard and swimming teacher in Langley.

She found the going tough on the first day of competition and she was not alone. By 7am, the temperature on the beach at Hillary's Boat Harbour, ten miles north of Perth, had reached 38C. Wood, 19, took the plunge with 21 other women at 10am, by which time the air she was gulping in had reached 42C and observers on the shore had taken to the shade.

Within 400 metres of the start, Wood found herself within 50 metres of man-eating sharks, although thankfully they were safely behind glass at a marine park at the head of the harbour. A recent shark attack in the harbour had, however, prompted organisers of the championships to send out spotter helicopters and a ring of police patrols at sea to protect the competitors. Later in the race, wild dolphins did keep the swimmers company.

While the sun and swell proved too demanding for Wood, who finished seventeenth in a time of 1hr 3min 56sec, less than three minutes outside a medal place. Conditions were not harsh enough for the much-favoured Australians, who prefer the sea to be rough.

The tides, choppy at sea but millpond-like in the harbour, favoured Erica Rose, 15, of the United States, who broke the one-hour mark to take her first world title in 59min 23.5sec — 1min 35sec ahead of the shoal of nine who swam in within 18 seconds of each other.

The first title of the championships had earlier gone to Alexei Akatiev, the Russian who won the European title in August. He overtook Ky Hurst, 16, of Australia, just 300 metres or so from the finish-line. Hurst caught the mood of the home crowd when he said: "When I saw him coming home, I felt like decking him." Akatiev won in a time of 55min 18.6sec and Hurst 55.24.9.

The competitors in the open-water event, though, could not quite take all the attention away from the politics of the sport. The German swimming federation (DSV) is seeking an injunction against Fina, the international governing body, in the Supreme Court of Western Australia today to have the accreditation of its team manager returned.

Fina, on hearing that Winfried Leopold had admitted to giving drugs to his swimmers during his days as a coach to East German swimmers, excluded the German team manager from the championships. The DSV has appealed, partly on the basis that Leopold served a German suspension for two years from 1991 to 1993, but, in the belief that its appeal would fall on deaf ears, has now resorted to legal action. Gunnar Werner, the honorary secretary of Fina and an international lawyer from Sweden, said that Fina would fight the DSV's action.

On a separate issue, he denied that Fina has imposed two-year, not four-year, suspensions on three Russians who tested positive for steroids in October. The sport has decided to keep its four-year rule on bans for competitors found guilty of drug offences, although a change to two years had been expected until an extraordinary meeting in Perth on Monday.

TENNIS: WITHDRAWALS PROVIDE FORMER WORLD No 1 WITH DIRECT ENTRY TO AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Agassi battles back

ANDRE AGASSI, the former world No 1 now languishing in the lower ranks, has gained direct entry to the Australian Open this month after a series of withdrawals from the year's opening grand-slam tournament.

Yevgeni Kafelnikov, the world No 5 from Russia, pulled out yesterday because of a knee injury. Others not playing in the tournament, which starts in Melbourne on January 19, include Chris Woodruff, Jiri Novak and Hernan Gumy.

Agassi, who is ranked 110th and had previously been allocated a wild card, has now secured a place in the main draw and the wild card will be given to someone else.

Yesterday Agassi brushed aside the Armenian, Sargis Sargsian, in their rain-interrupted first-round match in the Australian hardcourt tournament, fighting back from a set and 3-2 down overnight to win 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.

"It was certainly a much better situation for me today," Agassi said. "I knew I was in for a few problems, had we had to finish last night. The difficult part is getting out there and winning these matches and convincing yourself, as well as the other players, that you expect to win," he said.

Agassi did not reach an ATP Tour final last year for the first time since 1986 and was reduced to playing peripheral Challenger tournaments late last year. "Time in the Challengers showed me tennis was still important to me," he said.

South Africa triumph

SOUTH AFRICA made further progress towards the final of the Hopman Cup when they defeated Germany 2-1 in a qualifying match in Perth, Australia, yesterday.

The match was not decided until the mixed doubles match, Wayne Ferreira and Amanda Coetzer beating Tommy Haas and Anke Huber in straight sets, 6-2, 6-2. Huber, No 14 in the world, defeated Coetzer, ranked ten places above her, in straight sets in the women's singles, winning 6-3, 6-3 in 72 minutes. Her performance raised hopes that Germany, who are unseeded, could register their first win of the tournament.

But Ferreira levelled the match when he overcame Haas in three sets, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1. He then teamed up with Coetzer, not a regular doubles partner, to win the deciding match comfortably. South Africa are certain of reaching the final, should they beat France.

Patrick Rafter, the US Open winner and the world No 2, beat Carlos Moyà, of Spain, in three gruelling sets in the men's singles and then, with Annabel Ellwood, beat Moyà and Arantxa Sánchez Vicario in the mixed doubles to record a 2-1 victory and give Australia a good chance of contesting the final on Saturday.

Rafter was on the brink of defeat at 4-1 down in the third set of his singles match but rallied to take it on the tie-break, 8-6. Rafter needed to win after Sánchez Vicario had won the women's singles, beating Ellwood in straight sets, 6-2, 6-4.

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoë Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley, includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce 6.30 Evening Session 8.30 Movie Update with Mark Kermode 8.40 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Clive Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.00 John Dunn 7.00 David Allan's Country Club 8.00 Paul Jones 9.00 The Denise Williams Show. A new series 9.30 The Russ Abbot Show 10.00 The Carried Goat Show. See Choice 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Patrick Lunt

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 Midday with Mair 2.00pm Ruscoe on Five 4.00 Nationwide with Ian Payne 7.00 News Extra with David McNeil 7.30 Big Shots. A new series 8.00 Inside Edge 9.00 SportsAmerica with Alton Byrd 9.30 Sportshop 10.00 News Talk 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night with Richard Dallyn 5.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jeremy Clark 7.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show 10.00 Robin Banks 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Mark Forrest 7.00 (FM) Paul Coyle (AM) Calmin Jones 10.00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00am Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.00am Paul Ross Breakfast Show 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Deeley 7.00 Anna Raeburn 9.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europa Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf: Quarantine 7.30 Composer of the Month 8.00 News 8.10 Pause for Thought 8.15 Performance 8.30 The Boy George Collection 9.00 News; News in German (648 only) 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Sense and Sensibilities 9.30 Network 9.45 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 Discovery 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 The Learning World 11.45 From Our Own Correspondent 12.00 News 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Record News 12.45 Sports Round-Up 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Multitrack X-Press 3.00 News; News in German (648 only) 3.05 Sports Round-Up 3.15 Westway 3.30 The Vintage Chart Show 4.00 News 4.15 Record News 4.30 The World Today; News in German (648 only) 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Round-Up 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Assignment; News in German (648 only) 7.00 News Summary 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Pause for Thought 7.30 John Peel 8.00 Newshour 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Meridian Books 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 The World Today 10.45 Sports Round-Up 11.00 News 11.05 Outlook 11.30 John Peel 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am Westway 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 Composer of the Month 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Focus on Faith 3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Round-Up 3.30 Assignment 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Europe Today 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Alan Mann. Including the School Run Request and Breakfast Baroque 8.00 Henry Kelly. Michael Barry prepares spinach with sesame seed dressing. Plus, the Record of the Week 12.00 Lunchtime Requests with Jane Jones 2.00pm Concerto. Vivaldi (Mandolin Concerto in C major; Guitar Concerto in D major) 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.30 Newsnight 7.00 Smooth Classics with John Brunning 8.00 Evening Concert. Mendelssohn (Hebrides Overture, Fingal's Cave); Schoenberg (Verklarte Nacht); Albinoni (Adagio in G minor); Rimsky-Korsakov (Scheherezade) 10.00 Jane Markham 2.00am Concerto (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor, including Bach (French Suite No 6 in E, BWV817); Enescu (Romanian Rhapsody No 1); Massenet (Cinderella, Waltz); Warlock (Capriol Suite); Serasate (Introduction and Tarantella); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 21 in C, K467)
9.00 Masterworks, with Peter Hobday. Herold (Overture: Zampa); Cherubini (Horn Sonata No 2 in F); Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 5 in D); Dussek (Piano Sonata in F sharp minor, Op 61, Elegie Harmonique); Beethoven (Symphony No 4 in B flat)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Joan Sutherland
11.00 Sound Stories. Richard Baker introduces the music of the Sistine Chapel
12.00 Composer of the Week: Schutz
1.00pm Smaller Stages: The Beginnings — England. Piers Burton-Page explores the wealth of smaller-scale operas created by 20th-century composers. Includes Holst (Savitri) performed by Janet Baker, mezzo, Robert Tear, tenor, Thomas Hemsley, baritone, Purcell Singers, ECO under Imogen Holst, Vaughan Williams (The Shepherds of the Delectable Mountains), performed by Bryn Terfel, baritone, Adrian Thompson, tenor, Croydon Singers, City of London Sinfonia under Matthew Best
2.00 The BBC Orchestras. BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Includes Dvořák (Overture: Carnival); Sibelius (Karelia Suite); Tchaikovsky (Violin Concerto in D), under Tadeusz Otaka, with Mayumi Fujikawa, violin; Grieg (Peer Gynt Suite No 1), under David Atherton; Glazunov (Symphony No 4 in E flat), under Tadeusz Otaka
4.00 Ensemble. Per Enoksson, violin, Kathryn Stott, piano. Bridge, compl Hindmarsh (Violin Sonata, first performance); Ravel (Violin Sonata in G); Paganini, arr Szymanowski (Three Caprices) (r)
4.45 Music Machine. Verity Sharp talks to saxophonist John Harle
5.00 In Tune. Sean Rafferty ties out a new interactive course in association with the Trinity College of Music
7.30 Performance on 3. A performance given in 1996 at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham. Christine Oetze, soprano, John Mark Ainsley, tenor, David Thomas, baritone, City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus and Orchestra under Simon Rattle. Haydn (The Seasons)
9.50 Postscript: Novel Concerns (4/5)
10.15 Music Restored. Anthony Rooley introduces highlights of a concert of early English polyphony and chant given at last year's Birmingham Early Music Festival by the successful American ensemble Anonymous 4
10.45 Night Waves. Humphrey Carpenter discusses the work of the Nobel Prize-winning writer Kenzaburo Oe in the light of the British publication of *A Quiet Life*
11.30 Composers of the Week: Twentieth-Century American Song. Introduced by Brian Morton (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes. Digby Fairweather talks to Robert Gottlieb about his collection of jazz writings
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

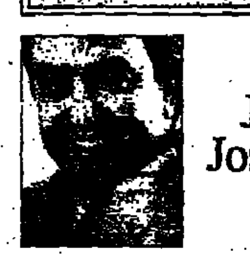
3.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.45 Revealed Lives: Beatrix Potter, Shepherdess. With Frank Delaney 8.58 Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Face the Facts. John Waite and his team of investigators follow up listeners' complaints (r)
9.30 Continent of Dreams. See Choice
10.00 (FM) News; Radio Times Past, by Mike Barfield. Recordings from the BBC sound archives offer a light-hearted look at popular broadcasting (r)
10.00 (LW) Daily Service. From St Paul's Church, Bedford, presented by Terry Waite, CBE
10.15 (LW) On These Days, with Kate Adie
10.30 Woman's Hour. Introduced by Jenni Murray
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Whittaker
12.25pm Foul Play Simon Brett challenges Liza Cody and Reginald Hill to solve six murders. With witness statements from Maria McErlane and Lee Simpson 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Thursday Afternoon Play: Hafod — Visions of Eden, by Tracy Spottiswoode. With Anthony O'Donnell and Sioned Mair
3.00 News; Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Allen reviews Wim Wenders's new film, *The End of Violence*, and looks forward to the theatre in 1998.
4.45 Short Story: Mason's Mini-Break, by Helen Dunmore, read by Sara West (r)
5.00 PM, with Charlie Lee-Potter and Chris Lowe 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Smooth Talkers. The panel game of improvisational wit and deceit
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Drummond Street Boys. Tessa Williams examines the racial tensions within the youth population living near Euston Station
8.00 Analysis: An Unhealthy Obsession? Julian Le Grand examines the real benefits and costs of healthcare
8.45 Shelf Lives. Nigel Cassidy tells the story of Clinique, the cosmetics brand that changed the face of the beauty business
9.00 Does He Take Sugar? Frederick Dove with the magazine made by and about people with disabilities
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Angela's Ashes, by Frank McCourt, read by Luke Griffin (4/7)
11.00 Espedair Street, by Iain Banks, dramatised by Joe Dunlop. The story behind the rise and fall of a 1970s mega-band. With John Gordon-Sinclair, Louise Beattie and James Macpherson (1/4)
11.30 Utopia and Other Destinations. Michael O'Donnell invites a guest to share their vision of an ideal world (6/6) (r)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Something to Hide. Stephen Thorne reads the thriller by Nicholas Monsarrat (4/7)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.50am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

هكذا من الإصل

Making it up seems increasingly hard to do

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

We have had the "docu-soap", and we've had the "docu-drama". And now, with the *famous* "live" episode which launched Channel 4's new series of ER last night, we have glimpsed the "drama-docu-soap".

It works like this: instead of sending a *documentary* crew to film a fly-on-the-wall documentary about a hospital, you send a *drama* film crew on to the set of a hospital TV soap to *pretend* to make a documentary of a drama in which the actors are only pretending to be medics in the first place (Do keep up at the back, will *you*?).

In fact, this programme created such a hullabaloo when it was broadcast in America to an audience of 42.7 million last September that it is quite surprising that there wasn't a *real* documentary crew making an actual fly-on-the-wall documentary about this television milestone. It would have then been able to log for posterity exactly how the drama film crew made a fake documentary about a drama about a supposedly real-life hospital emergency room (*Keep up!*).

And in case you had any doubts that all this really *was* live, you could spy a live baseball game being shown on the telly in the *doctors' staff room* — the equivalent of those hostage photographs in which kidnappers parade their captives alongside a copy of that *day's newspaper* to prove that the hostages are still alive.

The other way you could tell that it was live was that this cast of *normally fluent actors* all seemed afflicted with "Customs Hall Disease", in which law-abiding citizens — the sort whose normal behaviour makes an amoeba look animated — suddenly become gawky jabberers the minute they *push their suitcase trolley* through the "Nothing To Declare" doors and past a couple of customs officers ("I hope we find a taxi. Shall we change *our francs first*?").

Similarly, all those actors on *ER*, hired on fat salaries precisely because they have the knack of *looking normal and plausible in* the unnatural circumstances of a film set, last night unaccountably looked as clumsy as children playing with their first set of building blocks ("Oh, is it today you're filming?" "Erm, is this the camera?" "Do you need me to stand here and ask the doctor about his diagnosis?").

Isn't such deliberate acknowledgement of the presence of a film crew being more royalist than the king? People today are more knowing about television *than this: even the* "real" *people on* "real" fly-on-the-wall documentaries in Britain behave less awkwardly. In movie-obsessed America, where every other doctor keeps a set of head-shots in his locker just in case his next patient happens to be a Hollywood casting director, it seemed like gilding the lily.

What was impressive in this opening episode was not so much that the cast managed to do it all so well *in the circumstances, but that* they had bothered to do it at all. Let's all hope that they now return to what they do best, which is drama; because they stumble with documentary, or at least "drama-docu-soap". Last night's show was *the sort of playful jape that lands* skilled, but bored, skiers in the fracture clinic at Meribel.

Still, everyone is allowed the *occasional indulgence* as a reward for years of sterling work — even the presenters of Tomorrow's World (BBC1), who are herewith *awarded the first prize of the new* year for bamboozling the producer into financing a foreign shoot, enabling everyone to escape the worst of a British winter.

"Hello," chirruped *Tomorrow's World*'s Philippa Forrester, strolling along a sandy beach alongside her co-presenter, *Craig Doyle*, "and welcome to Rio de Janeiro."

Doyle, also beaming with delight, picked up the baton: "City of *samba, soccer, sunshine and s . . .*" Yes? Yes? What is it Craig? Sex? Señoritas? Steaks the size of Shropshire? *Sex? Sighing* men? Sand? *Sex?* Strong coffee? Sex? Close but not quite . . . "City of samba, soccer, sunshine and *SCIENCE!*"

It's true that we learnt something about aortic aneurysms and a cheaper method for producing braille and how best to amplify *samba drums, but not* a sausage about Brazil's biggest scientific mystery: where do those thong-wearing girls on Ipanema beach *keep their bus passes?*

Joel Ryan is probably the man to find out. Joel is Melbourne's *most successful* legal, male, heterosexual prostitute — one of two dozen or so who now take advantage of the government of *Victoria's recent decision to* decriminalise prostitution. Joel, the subject of *Under The Sun*'s **What Sort Of Gentleman Are You After?** (BBC2), has 1,200 clients in Melbourne. Not surprisingly, he describes it as "a good place to be a sex worker".

Jenny Treays's touching and amusing documentary manages to pass off saucy sex talk as sociological investigation because she is talented enough to have her cake and eat it. Not only do we see Joel's frank and demanding clients ("He's very, very, very good," purrs Valentina, married, in her forties); his wife Catherine, to whom he is devoted ("As long as I *don't know any of the details*, then I can mostly handle it well," she mumbles); and his four children; but we also unpeel a few of the *more recent* layers of Joel's life, catching sight of the man beneath.

Before Joel began charging £90 an *hour for sex*, he made ends *meet as a master furniture-maker*. "Probably one of the most difficult times in my life was coming to the realisation that the passion, that the love that I had for making furniture just couldn't support Catherine and myself in even a *modest lifestyle*." *Now he earns up* to £85,000 a year. It's still chiselling a living, but maybe not as Chippendale would recognise it.

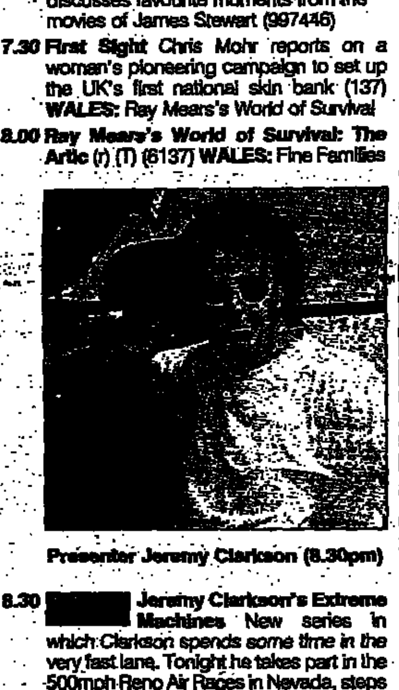
BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (88243)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (58427)
9.00 All Over the Shop (5816156)
9.25 Real Rooms A basement Cotswold kitchen (5895663)
9.50 Kilroy (T) (6830601)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (8191663)
10.55 The Really Useful Show (T) (7294021)
11.35 What Would You Do? (4343224)
12.00 News (T) and weather (7961330)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (7695972)
12.35 Going for a Song Ladies' underwear (7859175)
1.00 News (T) and weather (51514)
1.30 Regional News (T) (61999175)
1.40 The Weather Show (55278175)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (39130069)
2.10 Petrocelli (r) (2383359)
3.00 Small Talk (r) (7866)
3.30 Playdays (9890682) **3.50** Casper Classics (4918359) **3.55** McGee and Me (9800069) **4.20** Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde (8390717) **4.35** The Mask (3746804) **5.00** Newsround (T) (2685791) **5.10** The Demon Headmaster (T) (5544750)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (898972)
6.00 News (T) and weather (359)
6.30 Regional News (T) (311)
7.00 Watchdog with Anne Robinson (T) (2175)
7.30 EastEnders Having put Cindy in the dock, Ian finds that the world is still against him (T) (595)
8.00 [redacted] **Animals in Uniform** Sandi Toksvig explores the world of animals in the Armed Services, beginning with the rigorous basic training for Fred, a *homeless two-year-old dog* (T) (8595)
8.30 The Vicar of Dibley The first of a new series sees Geraldine rashly agreeing to host *Brain of Dibley* when the village gets its own radio station for a week. With Dawn French (T) (7530)
9.00 News (T) and weather (7224)
9.30 [redacted] **Roger Roger** New comedy series about a run-down cab company. With Robert Daws (T) (351069)
10.20 The Best Show in the World — Probably New series. Tony Hawks chairs a comedy quiz about the world of advertising, with Alan Davies, Fred MacAulay and guests (T) (417359)
10.55 Cousins (1989) Ted Danson and Isabella Rossellini play cousins struggling against *their own powerful mutual attraction* while their respective spouses are having an affair. Also with Sean Young, Lloyd Bridges and William Petersen. Directed by Joel Schumacher (T) (57357327)
12.40am Faces of Islam Imran Khan talks about the importance of his faith (3730170)
1.00 Victim of Innocence (1990) Drama, with Cheryl Ladd, Anthony John Denison and Julia Nickson-Soul. A former soldier discovers he has a daughter living in Vietnam, and resolves to bring her home to America. Directed by Mel Dorski (85002)
2.30 BBC News 24

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

7.00am See Hear Breakfast News (T and signing) (2949601)
7.15 Teletubbies (r) (2884972) **7.40** Casper Classics (8463953) **8.00** Blue Peter (r) (T) (58408) **8.25** Mouse and Mole (2905088) **8.35** Johnson and Friends (2644040)
8.45 The Magic Voyage (1994) Children's animated film about a plucky woodworm. Directed by Michael Schoemann (4362088)
10.00 Teletubbies (11408)
10.30 For Me and My Girl (1942, b/w) Romantic musical set in the period before the First World War, *starring* Judy Garland and Gene Kelly. Directed by Busby Berkeley (15470494)
12.10pm Hammer It Home (1163040) **12.30** Working Lunch (85408) **1.00** Joshua Jones (r) (27689224)
1.10 The Travel Hour: Brittany (5073663)
2.10 Darts: World Championship Highlights from last night's matches (75078311)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine New series. Sisko, Odo, O'Brien and Worf embark on a suicidal mission to penetrate Klingon high command (T) (964750)
6.45 Hit, Miss or Maybe (r) (106972)
7.00 Third Rock from the Sun The first episode in the series of the Emmy award-winning comedy from America with John Lithgow (T) (269175)
7.25 Close-Up on James Stewart A celebrity discusses favourite moments from the movies of James Stewart (997446)
7.30 First Sight Chris Mohr reports on a woman's pioneering campaign to set up the UK's first national skin bank (137) **WALES:** Ray Mears's World of Survival
8.00 Ray Mears's World of Survival: The Artic (r) (T) (6137) **WALES:** Fine Families



Presenter Jeremy Clarkson (8.30pm)

8.30 [redacted] **Jeremy Clarkson's Extreme Machines** New series in which Clarkson spends *some time in the* very fast lane. Tonight he takes part in the 500mph Reno Air Races in Nevada, steps aboard *U2's private* 747 jet in Miami, and finally rides in a Formula One inshore powerboat (T) (8972)
9.00 [redacted] **Meet the Ancestors: The Wolf Den** New 5-part series. The discovery of a subterranean chamber containing the remains of 3,500-year-old human burials promises to reveal exciting new clues about the Bronze Age (T) (5866)
9.30 Horizon Special: Crash Exploring the lessons learnt from a century of car crashes (1/3) (T) (61934)
10.28 Video Nation Shorts (834779)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (531663)
11.15 Darts: World Championship Highlights (225750)
11.55 Skiing Forecast (875514)
12.00 The Phil Silvers Show (b/w) (r) (1683248)
12.25am Weather (3595314)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (9126359)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (T) (5804311)
9.55 Regional News (T) (8364408)
10.00 The Time, the Place (T) (79194)
10.30 This Morning (50533514)
12.20pm Regional News (T) (7967514)
12.30 News (T) and weather (7845972)
12.55 Shortland Street (7820663) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (71708205) **1.50** Crosswits (39139330) **2.20** Quisine (T) (79359972) **2.50** Vanessa (T) (3290514)
3.20 News (T) (3804040)
3.25 Regional News (T) (3803311)
3.30 Potamus Park (6119175) **3.40** Wizadora (6033311) **3.50** Cartoon Time (4903427) **3.55** The Forgotten Toys. New series (6189934) **4.10** Blazing Dragons. New series (T) (9183798) **4.20** Mike and Angelo. New series (T) (3387866) **4.45** Sharp Practice. New series (T) (9041296)
5.10 A Country Practice (7380717)
5.40 News (T) and weather (917514)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (310953)
6.25 Regional Weather (951359)
6.30 Regional News (T) (779)
7.00 Emmerdale (T) (7243)
7.30 WALES: Masterclass — Right on Cue (663)
7.30 House Hunters *New game show hosted* by Lorraine Kelly (663)
8.00 The Bill What looks like a simple case of attempted *child* abduction is not as simple as it seems (T) (3663)
8.30 Blues and Twos Motorbike medic Guy Dunk has to deal with a workman who *has fallen on a building site and a man* trapped under a Tube train (T) (2798)



Duff, Macpherson, Rossi (9.00pm)

9.00 Taggart Gritty police drama with James Macpherson, Blythe Duff and George Rossi (2/3) (T) (8205)
10.00 News (T) and weather (47750)
10.30 Regional News (T) (661953)
10.40 Miracle at Sea: The Rescue of Tony Bullimore The story of how lone yachtsman Bullimore was rescued from his upturned boat in the South Seas of Australia (T) (382224)
11.40 WALES: House Hunters (T) (448224)
11.40 Tropical Heat (680663)
12.10am WALES: Tales from the Crypt (4245267)
12.35am The Jerry Springer Show (7069070)
1.30 New York News Pilot episode of a comedy-drama series about a newspaper with Mary Tyler and Moore, Madeline Kahn (3095985)
2.20 Bonkers (9762267)
3.15 The Chart Show (T) (3899489)
4.10 The Time, the Place (62849248) **4.35** Weekly World News (r) **4.50** Sound Bites (88250267) **5.00** ITV Sport Classics (23921) **5.30** News (61731)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (7820663)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7380717)
6.25 Central News (328972)
6.55-7.00 Lifeline (364069)
11.45 Anatomy of Disaster (689934)
12.40am The Jerry Springer Show (3576354)
1.30 Not Fade Away (89170)
2.30 Box Office America (8068335)
2.55 War of the Worlds (6203480)
3.45 The Time, the Place (39712)
4.15 Central Jobfinder '98 (4118880)
5.20 Asian Eye (1854118)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (7967514)
12.55 Home and Away (7820663)
1.25-1.50 Emmerdale (71708205)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7380717)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (80953)
11.40 Anatomy of Disaster (859866)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7380717)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (427)
6.30-7.00 Getaways (779)
11.40 Highlander (859866)
5.00am Freescreen (23921)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (7946021)
12.55-1.25 What's My Line (7820663)
5.10 Shortland Street (5579446)
5.35-5.40 What's On (349476)
6.23 Anglia Weather (952088)
6.25 Anglia News (328972)
6.55-7.00 What's On (364069)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (821205)
11.40 Swift Justice (859866)

S4C

Starts: 7.00am The Bigger Breakfast (41137)
9.00 Hang Time (64427)
9.30 The Secret World of Alex Mack (55048)
10.00 Moesha (91316)
10.30 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (53311)
11.00 The Monkees (8458)
11.30 The Bigger Breakfast (6184243)
11.45 The Pink Panther (6189798)
12.00 Ricki Lake (44663)
12.30pm Sesame Street (70576)
1.00 Slot Meithrin (44224)
1.30 Film: Kind Hearts and Coronets (20934)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (885)
4.00 Bewitched (392)
4.30 Countdown (576)
5.00 5 Pump (5021)
5.30 Quilts in Women's Lives (156)
6.00 Newyddion (781427)
6.10 Heno (979682)
7.00 Pobol y Cwm (254243)
7.25 Penblwydd Hapus (507934)
8.00 Cyw Haul (1205)
8.30 Newyddion (3040)
9.00 I dot (9175)
10.00 Film: Blue Sky (999514)
111.55-1.50am Film: Le Confessionnal (216088)

CHANNEL 4

7.00am The Bigger Breakfast (41137) **9.00** Hangtime (r) (64427) **9.30** The Secret World of Alex Mack (r) (55048) **10.00** Moesha (r) (91316) **10.30** Hangin' with Mr Cooper (r) (53311) **11.00** The Monkees (8458) **11.30** Bigger Breakfast (6184243) **11.45** The Pink Panther (r) (6189798) **12.00** Sesame Street (44663)
12.30pm Light Lunch with Lady Claire MacDonald (11088)
1.30 Thunderhead: Son of Flicka (1945) A family adventure starring Roddy McDowell, Preston Foster and Rita Johnson. Directed by Louis King (5793088)
3.10 Australia Wild (r) (3261663) **3.30** Collectors' Lot. The life of writer Agatha Christie in south Devon, and a collector of denim (T) (885) **4.00** Bewitched (r) (T) (392) **4.30** Countdown (T) (6891773)
4.55 Ricki Lake John F. Kennedy lookalikes (T) (3678885)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (156)
6.00 Roseanne Roseanne applies for a job at a beauty salon (r) (T) (999)
6.30 Hollyoaks Jambo reveals a secret from Mr Osbourne's past (T) (791)
7.00 News (T) and weather (809779)
7.50 Things to Come Professor Ian Angell argues that national currences will collapse as money changes from being a physical to a digital entity (395224)



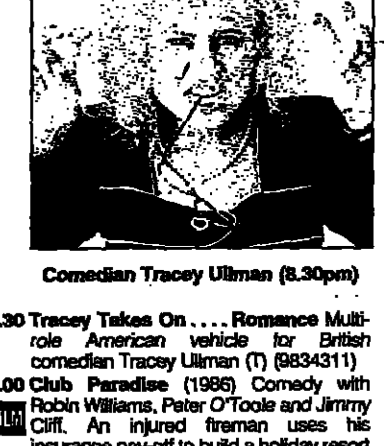
Nightmare at sea (8.00pm)

8.00 SOS Titanic (1979) A made-for-television docudrama about the sea disaster, starring David Janssen, David Warner, Ian Holm and Helen Mirren. Directed by William Hale (T) (7917)
10.00 Witness: The Devil Among Us The *complex ethical issues surrounding* paedophilia (T) (9934)
11.00 Explorers of the Titanic The story of the discovery of the wreck of the *Titanic* (r) (T) (814798)
12.05am Shooting Gallery: Twisted Tales Introduction (2864606) **12.06** The Trick (8189098) **12.15** Waiting for Go (4251828) **12.35** Love Over Goldfish (7398426) **12.40** Down Rusty Down (5021101) **1.05** Bathtime (7903847) **1.25** Chainsmoker (2090064) **1.40** Red Rain (8317335) **2.00** Elevated (3463170) **2.20** Five Easy Pizzas (9986170) **2.25** I Was Catherine the Great's Stable Boy (9985441) **2.30** Eau De La Vie (8944915)
2.45 Go Tell It on the Mountain (1984) starring Paul Winfield and James Bond III. Based on James Baldwin's semi-autobiographical novel, the story of a young boy's efforts to gain the approval of his stern stepfather. Directed by Stan Lathan (374915)
4.30 EZ Streets (T) (1454712)
5.25 Those British Faces: Margaret Leighton (6874538)
5.55 Sesame Street (4355170)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on *transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite*. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00am 5 News Early (9034430)
7.00 Exclusive (r) (6391205) **7.30** Milkshake! (7137040) **7.35** Adventures of the Bush Patrol (r) (1440175) **8.00** Havakazoo (r) (7046934) **8.30** WideWorld (7045205)
9.00 Espresso (1992750) **9.55** Oasis Africa (r) (T) (7114885) **10.30** Sunset Beach (7077381)
11.10 Leeza (8053779) **12.00** 5 News (T) (7049021) **12.30pm** Family Affairs (r) (T) (8980309)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (6390576) **1.30** Hot Property (r) (T) (3835250) **2.00** 5's Company (8210595)
3.30 SOS Pacific (1960, b/w) British drama with Eddie Constantine, Richard Attenborough and Pier Angeli. A plane crashes on a desert island that is about to *be used as a site for nuclear weapon* testing. Directed by Guy Green (4327205)
5.20 Russell Grant's Postcards Grant visits Thorpe Park in Surrey (77271750)
5.30 Laughing All The Way To The Bank Comedians discuss the serious business of making people laugh (8075514)
6.00 100 Per Cent (8072427)
6.30 Family Affairs (T) (8063779)
7.00 5 News (T) (9846156)
7.30 Oasis Africa The gathering, in Nakura National Park's soda lake, of more than two million flamingos (T) (8052663)
8.00 Was It Good for You? Three very different holidaymakers give their *assessments of Ibiza*: a young, single gay man in Figurette, two female friends in the exclusive Santa Eulalia area, and *three young girls on* a working holiday, reveal all about the island's clubs (9822576)



Comedian Tracey Ullman (8.30pm)

8.30 Tracey Takes On . . . . Romance Multi-*role American vehicle for British* comedian Tracey Ullman (T) (9834311)
9.00 Club Paradise (1986) Comedy with Robin Williams, Peter O'Toole and Jimmy Cliff. An injured fireman uses his insurance pay-off to build a holiday resort on a *West Indies island. Directed by* Harold Ramis (T) (87188427)
10.50 The Jack Docherty Show Chat and comedy (7211446)
11.35 Live and Dangerous Sports *magazine* featuring full coverage from the Brazilian National League (71903972)
4.40am Prisoner: Cell Block(1243828)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (6413441)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY 1

7.00am Street Sharks (92685) 7.30 The Simpsons (71392) 8.00 Bump in the Night (5968707) 8.15 Oprah Winfrey (6272750) 9.00 Hotel (58243) 10.00 Another World (77576) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (80040) 12.00 Married with Children (91595) 12.30pm M*A*S*H (34798) 1.00 Geraldo (22953) 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (54137) 3.00 Jenny Jones (25576) 4.00 Oprah Winfrey (37311) 5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (8750) 6.00 The Live 6 Show (3311) 6.30 Married with Children (4663) 7.00 The Simpsons (6779) 7.30 Real TV (3175) 8.00 Suddenly Susan (5427) 8.30 Veronica's Closet (4934) 9.00 Friends (33595) 9.30 Mad About You (14934) 10.00 ER (79885) 11.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (78205) 12.00 Late Show (55267) 1.00am In the Heat of the Night (18538) 2.00 Long Play (4265606)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888. Each film costs £2.99 per viewing
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26) **Mad Presidents (1996)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 50) **The Crow: City of Angels (1996)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 56) **3: The Mighty Ducks (1996)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **Sleepers (1996)**

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

6.00am Topaz (1969) (24663595) 8.05 Francis of Assisi (1961) (61176934) 10.00 The Man in the Brown Suit (1989) (57779) 11.30 Theodore Rex (1995) (3069) 1.30pm Picnic at Hanging Rock (975) (39408) 3.30 Heart of a Champion (685) (34798) 5.00 Hercules and the Amazon Women (1994) (73476) 7.00 Theodore Rex (1995) (82507) 9.05 Spy Hard (1996) (65879750) 10.45 Nobody's Fool (1994) (57884663) 12.35am All Men are Mortal (1995) (454538) 2.10 Poison Ivy II: Lily (1995) (359189) 3.55 Never on Tuesday (1988) (89130712)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

6.00am Tom, Dick and Harry (1941) (0953) 8.00 My Uncle: The Alien (1996) (6359) 10.00 Crack Up (1946) (36156) 12.00 Time Warrior: Eggs from 70 Million BC (1995) (59682) 2.00pm Forever Female (1953) (68779) 4.00 My Uncle: The Alien (1996) (1224) 6.00 The Ascent (1997) (92165798) 8.00 On Seventh Avenue (1995) (83088) 10.00 Desperado (1995) (808798) 11.45 Body of Influence 2 (1995) (909446) 1.20am Terminal Justice (1995) (859183) 2.55 You Can't Hurry Love (1988) (170286) 4.30 The Dragon That Wasn't (or Was He?) (49064)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Strategic Air Command (1955) (5268021) 6.00 Farewell to the King (1989) (3700021) 8.00 Someone to Watch Over Me (1987) (9712866) 10.00 The Pope of Greenwich Village (1984) (7063021) 12.00 The Fortune (1975) (2370335) 1.30am The Squeeze (1987) (2173267) 3.15 Halloween IV: The Return of Michael Myers (1988) (64815625)

TNT

9.00pm The Prize (1963) (48764205) 11.20 Escape from Fort Bravo (1953) (82745595) 1.00am Captain Sindbad (1963) (92600151) 2.30 The Prize (1963) (96852460) 5.00 Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (49717) 7.30 Wrestling (93750) 8.30 Sports Centre (39866) 9.00 Racing News (53446) 9.30 Aerobics (65779) 10.00 Figure Skating: Olympic Winterfest (78243) 12.00 Aerobics (33682) 12.30pm Sports USA (15866) 2.30 Olympic Winterfest (88137) 4.30 V-Max (4408) 5.00 Wrestling (8392) 6.00 Sports Centre (8601) 6.30 Football League Review (8953) 7.00 Ringside (10156) 8.00 Spanish Primera Liga (90392) 10.00 Sports Centre (34311) 10.30 Ringside (21205) 11.30 Football League Review (89224) 12.00 Sports Centre (22880) 12.30am The Rugby Club (36248) 2.00 Ringside (23712) 3.00 Spanish Primera Liga (70118) 5.00 Sports Centre (87147) 5.30 Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics (5403576) 7.30 Sports Centre (5415311) 8.00 Racing News (6429750) 8.30 Fish TV (9894717) 9.30 Golf Extra (3937040) 12.30pm Coca-Cola Cup (6365595) 2.30 Sports Unlimited (7400934) 3.30 Badminton (2209601) 5.00 Futbol Mundial (6297601) 5.30 Football League Review (5584663) 6.00 World of Sailing (6581576) 6.30 Inside the Senior PGA Tour (5505156) 7.00 Sports Centre (6284137) 7.30 The Rugby Club (2763330) 9.00 Golf: Mercedes Championship — Live (7191311) 11.00 Tight Lines (5412224) 12.00 Iron Women (6910928) 12.30am Football League Review (6828544) 1.00 Sports Centre (8698460) 1.30 Golf: Mercedes Championship (7555996) 3.30 Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Wrestling (65379576) 1.00 Fish TV (65388224) 2.00 Cue Masters (84204750) 2.30 Golden Age of Motor Racing (26246205) 3.30 Sport USA (77944040) 5.30 Inside the PGA Tour (22455589) 6.00 Golden Age of Motor Racing (65308088) 7.00 Tight Lines (10731750) 8.00 Sailing: Malaysia Challenge (10757798) 9.00 Iron Women (91054601) 9.30 World of Sailing (65370205) 10.00 Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (99696392) 11.30 Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Rally (13392) 8.00 Live Swimming (82607791) 11.45 Swimming (8265682) 12.00 Live Biathlon (60412) 2.00pm Live Tennis (5623205) 6.00 Alpine Skiing (82682) 7.00 Biathlon (4717) 7.30 Live Football (37330) 9.30 Rally (74427) 10.00 Alpine Skiing (36779) 10.30 Swimming (49601) 11.30 Motors (84392) 12.00 Rally (24248) 12.30am Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Nineteenth Hole (2158243) 7.35 Neighbours (5414243) 8.00 Crossroads (6782205) 8.25 EastEnders (3031427) 9.00 The Bill (5177137) 9.30 Howards' Way (5516798) 10.00 Bless This House (7678369) 10.30 The Sullivans (5166021) 11.00 Boon (8792663) 12.00 Crossroads (52482953) 12.25pm Neighbours (52465040) 12.55 EastEnders (6711412) 1.30 Sykes (7484392) 2.10 Ever Decreasing Circles (9549330) 2.50 Last of the Summer Wine (3261934) 3.30 The Bill (4368717) 4.00 Juliet Bravo (43315175) 5.05 EastEnders (2244682) 5.40 Bob's Full House (7666934) 6.20 To the Manor Born (7536972) 7.00 Last of the Summer Wine (1177514) 7.40 No Place Like Home (9167392) 8.20 Keeping Up Appearances (6551069) 9.00 The Bill (6657750) 9.30 The Sculptress (79280088) 10.35 Blackadder II (6667885) 11.15 The Jack Dee Show (6040682) 11.50 Three of a Kind (3624408) 12.25am FILM: Child's Play (1984) (49341489) 1.40 Miami Vice (8540809) 2.35 Shopping (63080489)



Twentysomething *Friends* back for a new series (Sky 1, 9.00pm)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (1021243) 7.00 E! Uncut (5040507) 7.30 Coronation St (3332084) 8.00 Blind Date (3369791) 9.00 Within These Walls (3415359) 10.00 Dempsey and Makepeace (4490868) 11.00 Hawaii Five-O (4595412) 12.00 Coronation St (5043885) 12.30pm Families (8314069) 1.00 On the Buses (6490048) 1.30 Please Sir! (8306040) 2.00 Forever Green (1417682) 3.00 Dempsey and Makepeace (5462798) 4.00 Hawaii Five-O (5441205) 5.00 The Professionals (3144953) 6.00 Families (3095576) 6.30 Coronation St (3019156) 7.00 On the Buses (3145682) 7.30 The Piglet Files (3008040) 8.00 The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (8669311) 9.00 Coronation St (5470717) 9.30 Hale and Pace (3394205) 10.00 The Professionals (8659934) 11.00 Close

CARLTON SELECT (CABLE)

5.00pm Gridlock (84200934) 5.30 Hey Dad II (58550773) 6.00 Blockbusters (51700296) 6.30 A Country Practice (33700476) 7.00 The Bounder (84220798) 7.30 Relative Strangers (41805840) 8.00 Desmond's (84239446) 8.30 That's Love (84218663) 9.00 Boon (10742868) 10.00 Auf Wiedersehen, Pet (10745953) 11.00 St Elsewhere (52319243) 12.00 Doctor Down Under (99837644) 12.30am Tales of the Unexpected (22140335) 1.00 Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Sesame St 7.00 Little Mermaid 7.30 Quack Pack 8.00 New Doug 9.00 Nightmare Ned 9.30 Gargoyles 10.00 Recess 10.15 Pepper Ann 10.30 Smart Guy 11.00 Boy Meets World 11.30 Brotherly Love 12.00 Wonder Years 12.30pm Home Improvement 1.00 FILM: The Love Bug 2.30 Winnie the Pooh 2.45 Puff the Magic Dragon, in the Land of Lies 3.15 Timon and Pumbaa 3.30 Recess 3.45 Men in Black 4.15 Recess 4.30 New Doug 5.00 Smart Guy 5.30 Student Bodies 6.00 Boy Meets World 6.30 Home Improvement 7.00 FILM: Wish Upon a Star 8.30 Dinosaurs 9.00 Touched by an Angel 10.00 Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Eek! Stravaganza 6.30 Ace Ventura 7.00 Casper 7.30 Power Rangers Zeo 8.00 Beetleborgs 8.30 Masked Rider 9.00 Magic Box 9.30 Dudley the Dragon 10.00 Pinocchio 10.30 Peter Pan 11.00 Oliver Twist 11.30 Huckleberry Finn 12.00 Gulliver's Travels 12.30pm X Men 1.00 Spiderman 1.30 Iron Man 2.00 Fantastic Four 2.30 Power Rangers Zeo 3.00 Beetleborgs 3.30 Masked Rider 4.00 Ace Ventura 4.30 Casper 5.00 Goosebumps 5.30 X Men 6.00 Spiderman 6.30 The Tick

TCC

6.00am Happily Ever After 6.30 Romuald the Reindeer 7.00 Spirou 7.30 Dennis the Menace 8.00 Batman 9.00 Earthworm Jim 9.30 Beverly Hills Teens 10.00 Oscar's Orchestra 10.30 Flash Gordon 11.00 Iznogoud 11.30 Gigantor 12.00 Spirou 12.30pm Beverly Hill Teens 1.00 Batman 1.30 AJ's Time Travellers 2.00 Iznogoud 2.30 Flash Gordon 3.00 Gigantor 3.30 Earthworm Jim 4.00 Dennis the Menace 4.30 Batman 5.00 Close

CARTOON NETWORK

All your favourite cartoons broadcast from 5.00am to 9.00pm, seven days a week

NICKELODEON

6.00am Count Duckula 6.30 Ren and Stimpy 7.00 Angry Beavers/Hey Arnold! 7.30 Rugrats 8.00 Doug 8.30 Arthur 9.00 CBBC 10.00 Wimzie's House 10.30 Babar 11.00 The Magic School Bus 11.30 PB Bear/Baby Animals/Bod/Magic Mountain 12.00 Rugrats 12.30pm Blues Clues 1.00 Clangers/Bagpuss 1.30 Muppet Babies 2.00 Fraggle Rock 2.30 Alvin and the Chipmunks 3.00 Jumanji 3.30 Doug/Angry Beavers 4.00 Hey Arnold! 4.30 Aaah! Real Monsters 5.00 Rugrats 5.30 Sister Sister 6.00 Sabrina 6.30 Moesha 7.00 Close

TROUBLE

12.00pm Swan's Crossing 12.30 Sweat 1.00 Heartbreak High 1.30 California Dreams 2.00 Saved by the Bell 2.30 Swan's Crossing 3.00 TX 3.30 TBA 4.00 Saved by the Bell 4.30 USA High 5.00 Sweat 5.30 California Dreams 6.00 TX 6.30 USA High 7.00 Heartbreak High 7.30 TBA 8.00 Close

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Fifteen to One 5.50 Family Fortunes 6.30 Catchphrase 7.05 Blockbusters 7.30 Give Us A Clue 8.00 All Clued Up 8.30 Whittle 9.15 Sale of the Century 10.00 Treasure Hunt 11.00 3-2-1 12.00 Studs 12.30am Moonlighting 1.30 Big Valley 2.30 Zorro 3.00 Byrds of Paradise 4.00 Mighty Jungle 4.30 Zorro 5.00 Screenshop

BRAVO

8.00pm A-Team (3181224) 9.00 Tour of Duty (3101088) 10.00 Red Shoe Diaries (5183798) 10.30 FILM: Rage and Honour II: Hostile Takeover (1992) (52872446) 12.20am Leslie Nielsen's Unbalanced World (6588118) 12.30 Tour of Duty (8650538) 1.30 Red Shoe Diaries (3915625) 2.00 FILM: Seizure (1974) (8987489) 3.50 Leslie Nielsen's Unbalanced World (41072083) 4.00 The Maxx (1419286) 4.30 The Head (5910422) 5.00 A-Team (9299248)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Grace Under Fire (7663) 7.30 Roseanne (3779) 8.00 Kenny Everett (6311) 8.30 Caroline in the City (5446) 9.00 Cheers (88069) 9.30 Ellen (70601) 10.00 Frasier (32953) 10.30 Absolutely (41601) 11.00 Comedy Network (83514) 11.30 Caroline in the City (97866) 12.00 Ellen (20422) 12.30am Nightstand (69052) 1.00 Cheers (39828) 1.30 Roseanne (44248) 2.00 Caroline in the City (57480) 2.30 Grace Under Fire (26915) 3.00 Frasier (19064) 3.30 Absolutely (17267) 4.00 Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

6.00pm Sightings (6212779) 9.00 The Cape (6225243) 10.00 FILM: Bombshell (1996) (2550798) 12.00 Sightings (9868731) 1.00am The Twilight Zone (2901002) 1.30 Tales of the Unexpected (7814557) 2.00 Dark Shadows (6988083) 2.30 New Alfred Hitchcock (6907118) 3.00 Friday the 13th (7729426) 4.00 Close

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am Joy of Painting 9.30 Garden Club 10.00 Garden Party 10.30 New Yankee Workshop 11.00 Total Fishing with Matt Hayes 11.30 Hometime 12.00 Period Rooms 12.30pm Gimme Shelter 1.00 Yan Can Cook 1.30 Furniture to Mend 2.00 Home Again 2.30 Antiques Trail 3.00 Two's Country 3.30 This Old House 4.00 Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt (4345866) 4.30 Justice Files (4334750) 5.00 Flightline (6847717) 5.30 Terra X (4358330) 6.00 Alaska's Arctic Wildlife (5528175) 7.00 Beyond 2000 (6827953) 7.30 Turning Points (4342779) 8.00 Fly Navy (3194798) 9.00 Disaster (6955392) 9.30 Medical Detectives (5590392) 10.00 Sky Truckers (3177021) 11.00 Forensic Detectives (9711798) 12.00 Seawings (4799712) 1.00am Turning Points (5935731) 1.30 Beyond 2000 (3528199) 2.00 Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Endangered: Crowned Cranes (1662866) 7.30 Mystery of the Neanderthals (1902798) 8.00 The Shark Files: Operation Shark Attack (4050773) 9.00 Asteroids: Deadly Impact (7219707) 10.00 Poles Apart (7400494) 11.00 Fatal Game: Everest (8482917) 12.00 In the Shadow of Vesuvius (6606354) 1.00am Close

TRAVEL (CABLE)

12.00pm Travel Live 1.00 No Truckin' Holiday 1.30 On the Horizon 2.00 Worldwide Guide 2.30 Flavours of France 3.00 Tales from the Flying Sofa 3.30 Supercities 4.00 Reel World 4.30 On Tour 5.00 Whicker's World: The Ultimate Package 6.00 Railway Adventures Across Europe 6.30 Friendship Drive 7.00 Travel Live 8.00 Cities of the World 8.30 People and Places of Africa 9.00 Swiss Railway Journeys 10.00 Floyds on Spain 10.30 Aspects of Life 11.00 A Golfer's Travels 11.30 Tales from the Flying Sofa 12.00 Close

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Harold Lloyd — the Third Genius — Part One (5827359) 5.00 Weapons of War (6283408) 6.00 Ancient Mysteries (7799175) 7.00 Biography: The James Gang (7189576) 8.00 Close

CARLTON FOOD (CABLE)

9.00am Food Network Daily 9.30 Food for Thought 10.00 Who's Cooking Dinner? 10.30 What's Cooking? 11.00 Worrall Thompson Cooks 11.30 Graham Kerr's Kitchen 12.00 Food Network Daily 12.30pm Winter Nosh 1.00 Food for Thought 1.30 Ideal Home Cooks 2.00 Mridula's Indian Kitchen 2.30 Food Network Daily 3.00 The Restaurant Show 3.30 Worrall Thompson Cooks 4.00 From the Ground Up 4.30 Chez Bruno 5.00 Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living 9.00 Heat is On 9.30 Tempestt 10.10 Jerry Springer 11.00 The Young and the Restless 11.55 Brookside 12.25pm Jimmy's 1.00 Cheap Chic 1.30 Ready, Steady, Cook 2.05 Hart to Hart 3.00 Live at Three 4.10 Jerry Springer 5.00 Rolonda 5.50 Cheap Chic 6.20 Ready, Steady, Cook 7.00 Rescue 911 7.30 Mysteries, Magic and Miracles 8.00 Jerry Springer 9.00 FILM: Obsessed with a Married Woman 11.00 The Sex Zone 12.00 Close



ATHLETICS 38
Anderson runs from heat of kitchen to Kenyan hideaway

SPORT

SWIMMING 42
Russian makes waves as competition begins in Perth



Walsh deposed as captain

Choice of Lara risks unrest for West Indies

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN ANTIGUA

WEST INDIES yesterday bowed to the public clamour for change by installing Brian Lara as their captain for the imminent five-Test series against England. Lara, an impatient heir apparent through the compromise period under Courtney Walsh, was told of his accession after a full meeting of the West Indies Board here.

Reaction to the appointment may be swift and dramatic. The first Test starts three weeks from today in Kingston, Jamaica, home of Walsh and most of those who avidly support him against the man they see as a moody young pretender. A boycott, or even less passive demonstrations, must be a strong possibility, for the captaincy issue has divided the territories and recreated much of the bitter inter-island resentment that was largely overcome during the years of success.

Such passions may now be raised or calmed by Walsh himself. In admitting to "great disappointment", Walsh refused to discount the possibility that he may immediately retire. "I am going back home and I will think things over during a few days with my family and friends," he said.

Captaincy may not have rested comfortably with Walsh, but this great-hearted fast bowler conducted himself with dignity throughout his 18 months in charge. In truth, Lara's promotion could hardly be resisted. The selectors, under the powerfully advocative voice of Wesley Hall, had nominated him before the series in Pakistan last November, but the board, whose president, Pat Rousseau, is Jamaican, used its power of veto and reappointed Walsh.

The heavy loss of that series reinforced Lara's cause, as did the brittle reactions of too many West Indies players to the unaccustomed pressure. Lara, however, scarcely contributed with the bat and he has yet to convince most people in the game that his is the character of a born leader.



Lara: honour

What West Indies are doing — in the case of some board delegates with profound reluctance — is to make their best and most high-profile player captain. It is a time-honoured route of teams in strife, but it will not produce an instant transformation of a team in decline, and neither can it guarantee dressing-room harmony.

Inevitably, the discord of recent months was disguised yesterday by a spontaneous camouflage of fine words and crossed fingers. Rousseau refused to divulge details of the voting, but it is safe to assume it was close. The late shift of support to Lara by the Windward Islands may even have been decisive.

Lara, who can be charming and articulate when in the mood, spoke of the "tricky seat" he will now occupy, but said: "It is a great honour for me. I am looking forward to the role as something very exciting in my career. I intend to go over everything with the players and it will be a joint operation we are starting.

"Our all-round cricket has got to improve on recent performances, but I am sure West Indies are going to be very successful in the future."

Lara believes that Walsh will continue playing and is probably right. Conceding an international place means relinquishing substantial sums of money and celebrity status. For Walsh, it would also mean giving up on two milestones, for he is four games short of 100 Test caps and 23 wickets behind Malcolm Marshall's West Indies record.

Marshall, as coach, and Clive Lloyd, as team manager, will continue in office for this series and Lloyd was yesterday squarely behind Lara. "I expect great things of him," he said. "It is a prestigious job, if a daunting one, and he has the opportunity to put our cricket back on top."

Kenya protest to Lord's

THE Kenyan Cricket Association (KCA) is to send official notification to Lord's of its protest at the interpretation of the rules to decide the one-day international against England A last Sunday. The match was awarded to England on a faster scoring rate.

The Kenyans, however, believe that the calculations were incorrect and after a full meeting of the KCA Board today, they have decided to fax the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) with their complaint. They claim that the regulations dictate that the home association should rule on the dispute and want a response from the ECB by tomorrow. If the boards fail to reach agreement, England are expected to accept the Kenyans' interpretation, leaving the A team needing victory on Saturday to win the series.



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Fairclough, who masterminded Stevenage's victory over Swindon Town, is plotting another FA Cup upset — this time against Newcastle United

Newcastle continue to use switch card

BY JOHN GOODBODY

NEWCASTLE United will continue with their appeal to get their FA Cup fourth round tie against Stevenage Borough on January 25 moved to St James' Park. After Newcastle officials visited the stadium of the Vauxhall Conference club yesterday, Newcastle insisted that "a ground of this size" would be "totally unsuitable, bearing in mind the immense interest in the tie and the anticipated level of support from our supporters for this match".

The hardline attitude escalated the row between the two clubs. Victor Green, the Stevenage chairman, described as "emotional blackmail" the statement by Newcastle that Kenny Dalglish, their manager, who was in charge of Liverpool at the time of the Hillsborough disaster, was "visibly shaken" by the decision to stage the game at Stevenage.

The final decision rests with members of the FA Council, who could, under rule 9 (c) of the competition's rules, order the game to be moved to a neutral ground or even to Newcastle. This seems unlikely.

Adrian Titcombe, the FA security officer, was present at the discussions this week between Stevenage, the local authorities and the police. It was after those meetings that permission was granted to hold the match at the Broadhall Way ground.

Steve Double, the FA spokesman, said yesterday: "If our security officer and the other authorities are happy with the game being staged at Stevenage, then we are."

The decision by Newcastle to continue with the appeal followed a day of hectic activity. Officials of the FA Carling Premiership club left Newcastle before dawn yesterday, spent an hour at the Stevenage ground, interviewed members of the local council and then returned to Tyneside to report back to Freddie Shepherd, the chairman, who decided to continue with the appeal.

Green was not impressed with what he termed Newcastle's "big brother" attitude when the draw was made. "If they had said 'can we come down to discuss the situation', it would have been a more proactive approach. Instead they reacted before they saw the ground.

"We want to show this ground off to the public and, by putting in extra seats, we will not be making any profit. It will just be to accommodate extra Newcastle supporters."

The Newcastle officials saw the site for the proposed addition of 1,400 temporary seats, which will bring the capacity up to 8,000. This will allow Newcastle to sell 2,200 tickets to their fans, although that figure is still nearly 4,000 fewer than might have been expected to follow the club in such an important game.

Stevenage, who beat Swindon Town 2-1 in the third round last Saturday, will lose about £110,000 by insisting that the game is staged in their own stadium. Green says that the club will get £150,000 from Sky Sports, who will screen the game live at 4.30pm, plus about £40,000 from gate receipts, following deductions for expenses such as administration and security.

However, this total of £190,000 is dwarfed by the figure of around £300,000 that a capacity crowd of 36,600 at St James' Park would earn for Stevenage, even if the game was not shown by Sky. Green said: "Moving the game would destroy the whole aura of the FA Cup. This is fairyland for us. It will be wonderful for the town in having perhaps £50 million of football talent in our stadium."

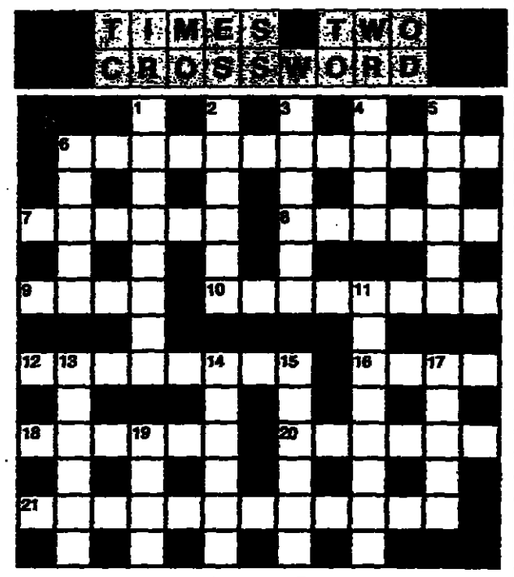
Tottenham sign Berti from Inter

NICOLA BERTI, the Internazionale midfield player, joined Tottenham Hotspur on a free transfer yesterday.

Berti, 30, was in his tenth season with the Italian league leaders, after joining in 1988 from Fiorentina. He made 312 appearances and scored 41 goals.

He has spent virtually the whole of this season on the substitutes' bench under the new coach, Gigi Simoni.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1297

ACROSS
6 Account dishonestly (4,3,5)
7 Ill will (6)
8 No. of fluid oz. in pint (6)
9 Spring; fit (4)
10 Laughably small (8)
12 Britain's highest mountain (3,5)
16 Charge per unit; to deserve (4)
18 A streaming in (of crowd) (6)
20 Unparalleled (6)
21 Progress of material success (4,2,6)

DOWN
1 Plain broth (8)
2 Be present at; wait upon (6)
3 Drink of the gods (6)
4 Observe; scribbled comment (4)
5 One moving on ice (6)
6 Bird; lifting device (5)
11 Unbending; honest (8)
13 Group of nine (6)
14 Street interview (3,3)
15 Artist's workroom (6)
17 Fasten; tomato cluster (5)
19 Be deprived of (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1296
ACROSS: 1 Malaise 5 Here 8 Batman 9 Extend 10 Subpoena 12 Nook 13 Plaza Toro 17 Fire 18 Pyrenees 20 Salary 21 Bow tie 23 Bole 24 Inferno
DOWN: 2 Abacus 3 Aim 4 Singe 5 Hit-and-run 6 Random 7 Pedant 11 Pilferage 14 Zephyr 15 Virago 16 Benign 19 Robin 22 Woe

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Henman struggles past Raoux into last eight

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN DOHA

JUST 12 months ago, when the nights in the Persian Gulf were considerably warmer than they have been of late, all was well in Tim Henman's world. He was approaching his first final on the ATP Tour, he was heading up the rankings towards a career best of No 14 and he was starting off his season as Britain's No 1 with some of his best tennis.

Yesterday, on a miserably cold night in the desert, it was hard to recreate such enthusiasm. Henman became the first man to take his place in the quarter-finals of the Qatar Mobil Open, but his 7-5, 6-4 victory over Guillaume Raoux left a lot to be desired.

"With it being so cold and so windy, it is not the ingredients to play good tennis," he said. "He [Raoux] played well — he's strong and he hits the ball very fast. But, when it's like this, you tend to play the conditions a little and be overcritical of yourself, and I got frustrated."

Henman has never lost to Raoux but, last night, the Frenchman had his chances as Henman got off to a terrible start.

Beginning with a double fault and missing his first service with monotonous regularity, Henman was broken in the first game and looked distinctly ill at ease. He tried to force the pace a little, but that just got him into more trouble.

His service, which can win him some easy points, continued to miss the mark, leaving him uncertain about what to do next. But, eventually, Henman began to slow things down, mixing it up in the rallies to leave Raoux to create his own pace.

Results 40

It paid off in the sixth game as Raoux presented Henman with his first break-point, fluffing a smash that was his for the taking, and then standing helpless as a Henman backhand flew past him. Back on level terms, Henman finally broke again to take the set as Raoux's uncanny knack of playing the wrong shot at the wrong time proved his undoing.

The second set seemed a better bet as Henman moved into a 2-0 lead, looking neat and tidy around the court. But, as has happened so often in the past, he gave it all away with a lapse of concentration.

From 40-15 he lost his service and put Raoux back in the match. "I made it difficult for myself in that set," he said. "I missed a backhand volley by a couple of inches and then I missed a couple of points and suddenly it's back on serve."

It was not the best game-plan in the world, and one Henman knows he will have to alter if he stands a chance of going further in this tournament, but luckily for him he was able to stamp his authority on the match when it mattered most. A couple of double faults and a broken string gave Raoux a hint of a chance but, at last, Henman managed to find the big service when he needed it and the volleys to win the points.

It was the last opportunity Raoux was going to get and, when he sent a backhand wide a couple of games later, Henman was through.

"I haven't played any matches for six or seven weeks now and it takes a couple of tournaments to get back to the right level," he said. "I could be playing better, but then you don't want to be playing your best tennis right now. In the end, the most important thing is to win."

Clubs to boycott Europe

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

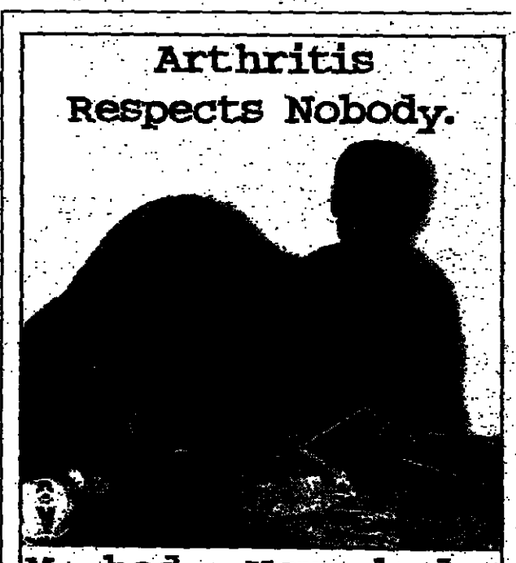
ENGLISH rugby union was rocked by a new crisis last night as the 12 Allied Dunbar Premiership first division clubs announced that they will not compete in the Heineken Cup and European Conference competitions next season.

The decision by English First Division Rugby (EFDR) is a clear protest at the structure of the domestic season, which the leading clubs claim does not give them sufficient opportunities to generate revenue because of the disruption to the league programme.

The announcement will come as a serious setback to tournament organisers. The Heineken Cup is in its third season and reaches a climax in three weeks when Bath take on Brive, the holders, in the final at Bordeaux.

The EFDR said: "European rugby was felt to be hugely important for the future of the game, but the existing structure often worked to the detriment of domestic league rugby. It was therefore decided, as from next season, not to participate in the existing ERC competitions in order to create a better structure."

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YOUNG OR OLD - THE PAIN'S THE SAME





